POCAHONTAS COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

"THE POCAHONTAS TIMES"

January 1, 1976 to December 31st. 1976. With some extra pages from the desk of the writer.

Vol. 3
Part 111.

1st. book for writer.
2nd. book for Editor Times
3rd. book for Anna Fisher
4th. book for Meade Waugh's family collection.

It is hoped that the following pages will be about the one room school houses of Pocahontas County. This is very doubtful as all the early school records were destroyed by fire. However we are doing the best we can with the help of a few interested former teachers and students.

Glen L. Vaughan
Lt. U.S.N. (Ret).
400 Melvin Avenue
Annapolis, Md.
21401

EARLY SCHOOLS OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY

WHERE ARE THEY?

In an article from the Pocahontas Independent of March 21, 1912 brought to the Pocahontas Times Office by Alice Waugh. This article was written by then Superintendent of Pocahontas County Schools, Mr. B.B. Williams. This was a published letter to the public entitled, "Pocahontas Teachers Lack Preparation".

The letter contained many suggestions and although is quite lengthly my mention is this:- There were one hundred and ten(110) schools or grounds but only thirteen (13) were fenced, and only three out of every four pupils in the county were in school. Teachers certification, libraries, etc. will not be brought up in this item.

How can we reason or believe that in what is now Pocahontas County we can locate the homesites of over ninety percent of our forfathers who fought in the Revolutionary War from the Point to Yorktown over two hundred years ago and now in 1976 are unable or do not care about the names and locations of the old one to four room schools, Teachers, students etc., for the past fifty to seventyfive years

The counties High schools are well taken care of themselves through their school Year Books. Would suggest that the County Museum obtain at least two copies of each year from the old E.D.H.S. Hillsboro, Greenbank and now Pocahontas County High School. They should be kept in two separate locations so a fire that destroyed the old one room schools, would not completely wipe out their records.

Due to a fire that destroyed the records of the old schools to make a complete list now would be next to impossible - but let us try.

The following list are a few of the names that have been in the Pocahontas Times during the past eighteen months so please write about your early schooling, classmates, grades in, name and location of schools - teachers and where they stayed. Conduct of student bodies - games played at recess - did you carry lunch or lived close enough to go home.

If you can only remember the name and location of the school and a teacher together with the year - you will be amazed at what you can remember - and what a help with other reports perhaps an entire class or school can be brought together. PLEASE TRY.

Some names that should be able to start the ball rolling.

Mr. James D. Lannan, Supt. of Schools.
Mr. Charles Moore, Former Supt.

Claude E. McLaughlin
Vera Ritchie

Mary Isetta Wallace
John McNeel

Charles H. Sharp
Julia Price (Edray)

Mrs. Dempsey Johnson, Former Beulah Palmer
Douthards creek and Woodrow. Her sister Clara.

Mrs Oliver Sprouse
Cathleen (May) Vaughan, Raywood.

Ada Vaughan
Sidney Goodwin's family.

Mr. F.M. Sutton
Sue Crommer

Mary Cromer
Enid Harper

All Beverages of Knapps Creek and Huntersville
B. Nelson.

Fleeta Lang, Watoga.
Any Coyner of Clover Lick

B.S. Lauster
Geraldine Haupt, Cass, Sister of Clari.E.D.H.S Football Star.

Any Gibson of Sharp from Slaty Fork.
Nancy Currance

Alice McClintic Moore.
Polly Smith Reynolds.

Members of all the many family reunions held yearly throughout the county. Any item no matter how small. All duplications will be printed side by side to help make a complete description.

When completed these records will be placed in two places in Pocahontas County - the Museum and one in the Library system of the county. However would recommend that they never be removed from their respective buildings but should be read in their home buildings.

Any item would help and all would be handled as you want them to be. There will be a total of four copies and if you cannot type your letters please write plain - any how send anything you have or can remember. Everything would be appreciated.

Glen L. Vaughan.
400 Melvin Ave.
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JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR
THURSDAY, SEPT. 2, 1976

Board of Education

The Board of Education met for a regular meeting on August 24. The following were hired as substitute cooks:

High School— Ethel Stewart, Alice Kesler, Shirley Welder;

Durbin— Dottie Colaw;

Green Bank— Media Rexrode, Creola Brubaker, Mable McCarty;

Marlinton— Jean McKenney, Martha Carpenter;

Hillsboro— Nellie Arbogast, Annabelle Perkins, Annie F. Rock.

Allen D. Stewart was employed as Principal of the Durbin Elementary School for the 1976-77 school year.

The following were employed as substitute teachers for the 1976-77 school year: Peter M. Beuttell, Stella Callison, Dwight Diller, Wallace F. Dorn, Macel K. Harris, Virgil B. Harris, Bonnie N. Hill, Garnet B. Hoover, David C. Hyer, Debora Johnson, Lynn Kerr, Hope H. Mallow, Virginia G. Mason, Edith E. May, Carrie Morrison, Marie H. Parg, Ruth F. Riley, Deborah Rinaldi, David B. Rittenhouse, Sandra Woods Saffer, Robert A. Sheets, Orda H. Smith, Linda S. Snyder, Elizabeth Swift, Gretchen Terry, Vere Bly Tracy, Ada W. Vaughan, Alice Rowan Waugh, Carol Young.

David B. Rittenhouse and W. Sherman Beard were employed as Attendance Directors for the 1976-77 school year.

The request of Robert Keller to use the High School cafeteria for the Pocahontas Agriculture Grassland and Field Day on September 9 was approved.

The Board approved a bid from the Pilot Life Insurance Company for the optional accident insurance policy which is available to students. The cost will be $4.50 per student.

Jo Ann Williams was employed as Special Education Aide at Green Bank and Janet L. Shank as a Special Education Aide at the High School for the 1976-77 school year.

Sarah Jane Irvine was employed as an Early Childhood Aide at Marlinton for the 1976-77 school year.

The Board approved a policy on the release of information concerning students to the public which is printed elsewhere in this paper.

The Board approved changing the regular meeting night for Board meetings from the second and fourth Tuesdays to the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

The next regular Board meeting will be on Monday, September 13, at 7:30 p.m.

Public Notice

The following Resolution was adopted by the Pocahontas County Board of Education.

The Pocahontas County Board of Education will release for publicity reasons so-called directory information. This will include statistical information, i.e., honor roll students, statistics for athletes, such as height, weight, age, name, etc.

This action will be expedited unless public or parental objections are voiced.

School Calendar 1976-77

School Months for year 1976-77 will begin and end on the following dates:	No. of days in school months
FIRST MONTH - August 30, 1976 through September 24, 1976	14
(August 30 - Teachers meet at each school)	
(August 31 - 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - County Wide Meeting at Pocahontas County High School)	
(September 1, 2, and 3 - In-Service at each school)	
(September 6 - Labor Day, holiday - Not to be made up)	
[September 7 - First Day of school for students]	
SECOND MONTH - September 27, 1976 through October 22, 1976	20
THIRD MONTH - October 25, 1976 through November 19, 1976	17
(November 2 - Election Day, holiday - Not to be made up)	
(November 9 - End of first quarter - 45 days)	
(November 11 - Veterans' Day, holiday - Not to be made up)	
(November 12 - Teachers' Workday - No school for students)	
FOURTH MONTH - November 22, 1976 through December 20, 1976	18
(November 22 - Teachers' Workday - No school for students)	
(November 25 - Thanksgiving, holiday - Not to be made up)	
(November 26 - No school - To be made up)	
FIFTH MONTH - December 21, 1976 through January 21, 1977	18
(December 23 - Last day of school before Christmas Vacation)	
(December 24 through December 31 - Christmas vacation)	
December 24 - Christmas, holiday - Not to be made up)	
(December 31 - New Year, holiday - Not to be made up)	
(January 3, 1977 - Return to school)	
SIXTH MONTH - January 24, 1977 through February 18, 1977	19
(January 26 - End of second quarter - 45 days)	
(January 28 - Teachers' Workday - No school for students)	
SEVENTH MONTH - February 21, 1977 through March 18, 1977	20
EIGHTH MONTH - March 21, 1977 through April 19, 1977	19
(March 31 - End of third quarter - 45 days)	
(April 1 - Teachers' Workday - No school for students)	
(April 8 and 11 - Spring vacation - To be made up)	
NINTH MONTH - April 20, 1977 through May 17, 1977	20
TENTH MONTH - May 18, 1977 through June 14, 1977	15
(May 30 - Memorial Day, holiday - Not to be made up)	
(June 8 - Last day for students)	
(June 8 - End of fourth quarter - 45 days)	
(June 9, 10, 13, and 14 - Teachers' Workdays)	
(June 14 - Last day for teachers)	
TOTAL DAYS SCHOOL IN SESSION	180
LEGAL HOLIDAYS	7
TEACHERS' IN-SERVICE DAYS	13
TOTAL DAYS IN SCHOOL TERM	200

Hill Reunion

The 27th Annual Richard Hill Family Reunion was held August 15, at Droop Mountain State Park. Due to rain the morning program was somewhat delayed. But, despite the rain, brave people wore rain coats and carried umbrellas. Mr. Grady Moore, of Marlinton, has a very inspiring Memorial Service. Flowers were placed as names were read of Hill relatives who are deceased since last reunion. Hymns were sung by the Hill Reunion Group and two special songs by Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Hilleary, accompanied by Linda Hill VanReenen at the organ.

Bountiful tables of food were spread and table grace was given by Rev. Sherman Markley.

The afternoon program started off late but with much enthusiasm with several hymns by the Hill group and a special by the Hillearys. Sam Hill introduced the afternoon speaker, David Hyer, Executive Director of the Pearl S. Buck Birthplace Foundation.

Plans were made to donate $25. to the Martha Davis Bible Fund and to place a bronze marker on the Richard Hill Homestead site.

Officers and Committeemen were re-elected for 1976-77.

Oldest Hill relative present - Roy Mace of Weston, 92 years; youngest - Timothy Eugene, 7 week-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Adkins, of Lookout; oldest married couple - Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hill, of Mechanicsburg, Pa., 58 years; newly weds - Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. VanReenen, of Hillsboro, 14 months; largest family - Mrs. Lemma Boggs, Hillsboro, 6 children; traveling greatest distance - Bradley Lee Eckert, Boulder, Colorado, 1600 miles. Those receiving silver dollars were: Stephanie McCoy, of Hillsboro; Bonnie Hill, Durbin; Fredda Brown, Mechanicsburg, Pa.; Andy Taylor, Dunmore; Ruth C. Cutlip, Hillsboro; Ward Hill, La Porte, Ind.; Mrs. Herbert Hill, Petersburg, Va.; Faye Good, Forest Hill, Md.; Teanna McMillion, Christianburg, Va.; Martin McMillion, Christianburg, Va. Candy and buble gum were given all children under 12.

The meeting was adjourned by singing "Blest Be the Tie" — to meet again next year same time, same place, August 16, 1977.

Attending the reunion from out of state: Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Hamrick, and daughter, Michigan; Ward Hill, La Porte, Ind.; Carolyn Hill Morrison and sons, John and Keith, and Mark Wilford, Columbus, Ohio; Denzil Williams, Toledo, Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Good and Marion Lawrence, Forest Hill, Md.; Mrs. Virginia Scotten, Churchville, Md.; Mr. and Mrs. Lorraine Hill, Joyce and Larry, Baltimore, Md.; Kenneth and Fredda Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hill, Mechanicsburg, Pa.; Mr. and Mrs. Lee Young, Wellsville, Pa.; Mr. and Mrs. Neil Bruffey, Bel Air, Md.; Ivor Bruffey, Kingsville, Md.; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hill, Petersburg, Va.; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Joyce, Orda Jane, Charles, and Clarence, Bluefield, Va.; Fred, Margy, and Brian Poteet, Virginia Beach, Va.; Bob, Patti and Christy Pedigo, Manassas, Va.; Mr. and Mrs. Martin McMillion, Teanna and Myra, Christiansburg, Va.; Mrs. Lucille Pedigo, Covington, Va.; Bradley Lee Eckert, Boulder, Colorado.

Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Plybon, of Barboursville, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hockenberry over the weekend. They also attended the State Fair.

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JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR

THURSDAY, AUG. 26, 1976

Pioneer Days—July 8-10, '77

Schools

Schools open for Pocahontas County teachers next Monday. They meet in their respective schools on August 30. On Tuesday there is a county-wide meeting of the teachers at the High School. The program includes the introduction of new teachers, comments by school staff, meetings of ACT, CEA and Service and Auxiliary Personnel. After lunch a representative from the textbook company will discuss math textbooks and three men will explain the new State insurance plan.

Evening Capital

PUBLISHED BY CAPITAL GAZETTE NEWSPAPERS, INC.
AMERICA'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS

Founded 1727

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Our say

Remember 1984 only 8 years away

EVERYONE knows that today's high school and college students often graduate with deficient reading and writing skills, but not all of us appreciate the future impact of such deficiencies.

It has always been difficult to sort out the cause-effect relationship between language and thought, but some scholars have come down on the side of George Orwell in his apocolyptic novel, "1984." The terrible future sketched by Orwell is populated by citizens whose every thought is limited and controlled by the government-approved language, called Newspeak. The theory behind Newspeak is the crushing of individual thought by creating a language so narrow and empty that people can no longer express, or even imagine, concepts alien to the wishes of the state.

No one seriously expects such a future for this country, but by the year 1984 we may very well have a generation of functionally illiterate citizens who can express only the most basic mental functions. If thought can be limited by language, as in the bleak world of Orwell's 1984, then we have reason to doubt the ability of the upcoming generation to face the difficult world of the future.

Those of us living today will have to turn this world over to that generation well before we die, so we should look carefully at the education system which is producing tomorrow's leaders. Just as a builder is limited by the quality of his tools, our young people are constrained by poor reading and writing skills. To build for the future, we need articulate, informed citizens. 1984 is only eight years away.

U.S. Forest Service

Vandals have again been at work damaging and destroying public property on the Gauley Ranger District of the Monongahela National Forest. The Red Oak Fire Tower which has been maintained for emergency fire detection and forest communication throughout the Cranberry Back Country and Wilderness Study Area and for use by the W. Va. DNR in their bear tracking program has just recently received such unwarranted destruction.

The electrical service box and wiring have been torn out and damaged beyond repair with the cabin's interior electrical heaters stolen. Locks have been broken to gain entry to the tower cabin with contents of the cabin thrown about. The tower was to have been in use as a communication post during the National Girl Scout Encampment to be held here in Mid June.

Picnic tables have been damaged in the Woodbine Picnic Area and along the Cranberry River with a table recently being thrown off of the Cranberry River bridge. A bulletin board has been busted off at the base at Woodbine Picnic Area with litter scattered throughout the area by dumping of the garbage cans. Several garbage containers and picnic tables have been stolen along the Cranberry and Williams River Concentrated Use Areas.

Continued vandalism of the Summit Lake Shelter beyond repair has necessitated the removal of the facility. The structure's floor had been burned out twice after replacement with the last burning weakening the structure making it unsafe for further public use.

The public is reminded that such acts of vandalism is destroying public property which is provided for by the taxpayers. With the rising costs, such facilities are becoming more and more costly to repair or replace. One picnic table for example costs $150.00 to build. Though it is made to last a long time under reasonable and intended use, vandals can destroy one in one escapade.

Theft or vandalism of one table eliminates the use that another family or group of 5 may have had use in seeking pleasing outdoor recreation experience in the National Forest.

Citizens witnessing such acts of vandalism are requested to get any information they can and report the incident to the nearest Federal Forest Officer, DNR Conservation Officer, or the District Ranger Station.

Destruction of government property is a violation of, Title 18, United States Code 1361 and shall be punished as follows: If the damage to such property exceeds the sum of $100, by a fine of not more than $10,000 or imprisonment for not more than ten years, or both; if the damage to such property does not exceed the sum of $100, by a fine of not more than $1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

Pioneer Home Sites Located

Below is a list of the locations of the sites of homes of the pioneers of Pocahontas County that Sam Hill has received to date. Sam reports that interest in locating and recording the home sites of the early pioneer settlers of the Revolutionary War period seems to be increasing so keep the letters coming. They are all informative. It is interesting to note that more than half of those received to date are from people living out of the County, so we local folks need to get busy.

A decision must soon be reached as to the type and cost of marker to be placed on the public road near each site. A decision on the part of the descendants of each pioneer as to placing a bronze plaque on the site must also be made.

This project will be the main topic for the next meeting of the Pocahontas County Historical Society on June 28. It is hoped a decision on the type of markers can be made then.

In the following list the name of pioneer is given, the home site, and the name of the person sending the information.

Bradshaw, John—Knapps Creek, above Huntersville—Glenn L. Vaughan.

Buckley, Joshua—East side of Greenbrier River, opposite mouth of Swago Creek—Ralph B. Buckley.

Burner, (Abraham) Abram—river from Hermitage Motel, Bartow down—Eugene Burner.

Collins, John—Hosterman between Durbin and Cass off Back Mountain Road—Goldie Collins, Baltimore.

Conrad, John H.—North Fork Road from Green Bank, 1/4 mile from Orndorff home—Marie Leist.

Cooper, James—2 miles east of Green Bank on Wesley Chapel Road where Audrey Patterson house stands. Cooper's Run flows through old farm, joining Deer Creek below Green Bank—Hubert Taylor.

Gay, Robert—On left side of road going to Pocahontas Fairground—Frances M. Williams.

Gillispie, Jacob—East of Green Bank, later owned by James Gillispie, now owned by Delbert Gillispie—Hubert Taylor.

Hanna, David—Old Field Fork of Elk River—Veo P. Hanna

Hill, Richard—Hill's Creek—Johnnie B. Hill.

Hudson, Richard—Headwaters of Sitlington's Creek, cabin about 50 feet below old barn on Taylor's farm on Galford's Creek near Dunmore—Hubert Taylor.

Lightner, Peter—14 miles from Marlinton on Knapps Creek between old Dever place and Dr. Roland Sharp—Charlcie Beverage Snider.

Kennison, Charles—On Lobelia road, across from Harlan Kennison—Harlan Kennison.

McNeel, John—Short distance south of present residence of Richard McNeel—Richard I. McNeel.

Moore, Moses—Knapps Creek below Frost—Grady Moore.

Nottingham, William, Sr.—Homesite approximately 400 yards above "Hevener Scales" on land now owned by Layton L. Tharp (old Neil Hevener farm)—Forest Wooddell.

Nottingham, William, Jr.—Sam Barlow place, now owned by Jay Rockefeller—Forrest Wooddell.

Sutton, John, Jr—Settled on Gillispie farm, 2 miles S. E. of Green Bank, where old Ed Hudson house now stands—Hubert Taylor.

Taylor, Ludy—Galford's Creek, east of Dunmore, located where present home of Charles Jack Taylor stands—Hubert Taylor.

Warwick, Jacob—Clover Lick, on John Coyner farm—John Coyner.

Wooddell, Joseph—Adjacent to home of Belle T. Wooddell and Forrest Wooddell—Forrest Wooddell.

East Rainelle, Va.
March 1 - 1960

Dear Anna

I received the two Cards from you and Dan, and I was glad to hear from you.
I am home from the hospital now and feel real good most of the time. I have some bad days.
My trouble is my stomache, and I'm supposed to go back to the hospital after the first of April for a small operation.
I went over there for X-Rays of my stomache, the doctors said the opening in my stomache was to small for my food to digest and go through and said they could help me with a small operation. They said they did a lot of that and it wasn't a serious operation at all. I cant eat much the way it is so think I let them do it.
Dr Van Sant said there was no cancer and that is what I worried about. And also no ulcers.
Well how is your weather out there? We have snow piled on top of snow

More snow than we have had for years. It hasn't been to cold this winter only at times the wind blows so hard and piles the snow up. To day is real pretty, the sun is shining and the snow is melting. I hope how soon it goes off.
H.L. Nellie and Jane are in Fla. I think they are coming home this week They went down two weeks ago. Helen is Grandma now. Jerry their youngest boy has been married two years to day They have a little girl four months old.
I am great grandma three times and expecting one more the first of aprke. Nellie has two grand children and when Ruth Ellen's baby gets here she will have three.
Dave and Mary Lowell both have boys. Mary lives in California and David lives in the State of Wash-
William & Verla and three boys are well. Uncle Will is doing pretty well this winter. He has to walk with a Cane. Well I'll close for now
If you all come out this summer be sure and come to see us. When I get to (over)

feeling better, I am going up to
spend a week with Tinnie.
Will and Bud got along so well
keeping house while I was gone
so I am going to let them try it
again. Write to me soon
Tell Dan hello, and I guess
Elizabeth is in school.

Love
Aunt Mattie

We live in East Rainelle
Nor.

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MABEL M. PRICE, OWNER
JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR

THURSDAY, AUG. 28, 1958

Baxter Centennial

This week marks the one hundredth anniversary of the Baxter Presbyterian Church at Dunmore. The church was built in the summer of 1858 and the building itself was dedicated on August 27, 1858, with a sermon by the Rev. Charles M. See, his text being, "Except the Lord build the house they labour in vain that build it..." Psalm 127:1.

Baxter Church was organized for the worshippers in the Dunmore area who found the distance to Liberty Presbyterian Church (formerly Head of Greenbrier Presbyterian Church) inconvenient.

The architecture of the church is Virginia colonial, with a recessed entrance and large white columns. The original slave gallery remains intact in the interior. The original pews, with the partition in the center which separates the men and women of the congregation, are still in use. Despite the demands of time upon the building, and the introduction of a modern furnance and kitchen, basement with church school classrooms, the general appearance of the church remains as it was a hundred years ago. The chancel and the sanctuary have been changed hardly at all. During the War Between the States the Union Soldiers used the church as a shelter and it was thirty-five years before the damages were fully repaired.

Greenbrier Presbytery officially organized Baxter Church August 21, 1859, with the Rev. John C. Barr being the first minister. The sixteen original communicants were: Robert D. McCutchan, Ruling Elder, Clerk of Session, Robert Curry, Ruling Elder' Elizabeth Z. McCutchan, Nancy McLaughlin, Samuel H. McCutchan, Christiana Jane McCutchan Elizabeth E. Curry, Caroline R. Nottingham, Nancy C. McCutchan, Matilda C. Craig, Caroline E. Warwick, John B. McCutchan, William A. G. McCutchan, Robert L. M. McCutchan, Elizabeth E. McCutchan and Mary Jane McLaughlin. These were transferred from the Liberty Church and Mr McCutchan resigned as Clerk of Session at Liberty Church to become the first Clerk of Session of Baxter Church, which office he held for many years. Another Clerk of the Session for many years was C. E. Pritchard, who was active in the church's work from 1891 until his death in 1936.

Ministers and supply ministers of the church have been John C. Barr, R P. Kennedy, M. D. Dunlap, Matthew Lyle Laey, David S. Sydenstricker, A. H. Hamilton, J. H. McCown, William T. Price, J. V. McCall, E. E. Alexander, R. M. Caldwell, Henry W. McLaughlin, A. F. Watkins, Robert Fultz, W. W. Bain, J. S. Kennison, Lewis Lancaster, H. H. Leach, L. A. Kelly, J. M. Sydenstricker, D. McD. Monroe, George Mauze, D. McD. Monroe, A. B Williford, Hobert Childs, B. B. Breitenhirt, Graham Keyes, George Bowman, J. D. Arbuckle, A. J. Kelway and P. R. Newell.

The Centennial service will be August 31 with the Reverend D. McD. Monroe preaching in the morning, and services in the afternoon.

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MABEL M. PRICE, OWNER
JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR

THURSDAY, JAN. 29, 1959

Old Bridge

At the public meeting about the new bridge Dr. Norman Price was reminiscing about the wooden bridge that preceded the present structure, so we talked a little more and have a few items on it.

The wooden bridge across the Greenbrier was built as a part of the road development in this section, which was then Virginia. The three main roads were the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike, which crossed the northern part of the county and was built about 1840; the Warm Springs-Marlins Bottom Turnpike; and the Lewisburg-Huttonsville Turnpike. The Warm Springs-Huntersville road was built about 1838, then the road was extended and when the road from Lewisburg north was started about 1853 a bridge was necessary to connect the two at Marlins Bottom.

The bottom land here was called Marlins Bottom until 1887. The postmistress at that time, Mrs. Janie Baldwin Skyles, a member of the prominent Maryland railroad family of Baldwins, was instrumental in having the name changed to Marlinton. Her husband was Thomas B. Skyles, a land ranger for the B & O in what is now the Richwood area. Skyles in Webster County is named for him. Her mother and her 12 year old brother, Winchester Baldwin, visited her here about 1888. Norman Price, son of the local minister, was selected as guide and guardian for the boy, who was fat, wore shoes summer and winter, and wanted to enter Annapolis. This dream evidently was never fulfilled, for he died in St. Louis a few years ago as president of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

Back to the bridge. It was a covered, narrow one-lane toll bridge. The farm land here was owned by Margaret Davis Poage Price, wife of James Atlee Price, and for giving the land for the bridge and road she was given the job of toll-keeper. The Toll House, still standing at the west end of the bridge, was built for that purpose. Collection of toll was interrupted by the War, then resumed by the county but it gradually died out in the 80's.

The toll charged was five cents. The few local residents paid a token charge of $1.00 a year for a family. Many people waded or forded the river to save paying the toll.

Automobiles had been crossing the bridge several years before it was replaced but they were light. A steam tractor or a sawmill engine had to ford the river. The necessity for two-way traffic was a factor too. The bridge itself was in good condition when it was torn down.

The bridge and the roads were built by Virginia and were included in the "Virginia Debt" when West Virginia became a State.

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JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR
THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1976

Project Funded

Daniel B. Taylor, State Superintendent of Schools announced on July 15 that $136,848.00 has been approved for the teaching of educationally deprived children in Pocahontas County Schools under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title I of Public Law 89-10.

Programs in tutorial reading for grades 1—3, remedial mathematics in grades 5—6 and the supportive service of speech pathology and audiology are included in the approved project. More than 300 elementary children in the county will be served in this project which has been titled "Closing the Gap."

Coal Tax Money

State Treasurer Ronald G. Pearson today distributed $6,212.87 to municipal and county governments in Pocahontas County representing their shares of the 25 per cent allotment of the West Virginia severance tax on coal.

An Act passed by the First Regular Session of the 1975 Legislature established the severance tax of 35 cents per one-hundred dollars of valuation on produced coal, and earmarked the proceeds to be returned to counties and cities in the State. Seventy-five per cent of the tax is returned to those counties in which coal was produced during the preceding quarter proportionate to the amount produced in each county. Statutory provisions detailing this distribution were established when the Act was passed, and the first two quarterly allotments have been returned to eligible counties by Treasurer Pearson.

Pocahontas, with a population of 8,870, gets $6,212.95. It is divided as follows: Cass, population 173, $121.15; Durbin, 347, $243.05; Hillsboro, 267, $187.; Marlinton, 1286, $900.75; County, (outside of municipalities), 6,797, $4,760.92.

Museum Notes

The Pocahontas County Historical Society would like to acknowledge with thanks the following recent donations to the museum collection: a set of ladies' ornamental combs, at least one of which is 120 years old, a penmanship hand book and a writing set, from Mrs. Helen Brumagin, of Marlinton, a large set of photos of Harter, from Mr. Ward Sharp, of Millheim, Pennsylvania, a photo of Thornwood, c. 1914 from Mr. Richard A. Frantz, Montgomery, several old hymnals and religious books from Karen Davis, Marlinton, 1 tuxedo and 2 pair of trousers, from Mrs. Samuel Gibson, Marlinton.

The museum is looking very smart this season since its exterior was painted and the floors gym-sealed prior to opening on 12 June. The Society's next aim is to have the museum roof fixed.

D. K. M.

Grandmothers Day, 1870

In the years after grandmother married about 1870, I am listing some of the things she did as her housekeeping duties. In summer she made balckberry jam (first picking the berries from the tall thorny vines), apple butter dark and spicy (which means three or four bushels of apples had to be peeled and cut and cooked into sauce, then sweetened and seasoned with spices and cooked to a certain consistency), huckleberry jam (the berries were picked by going into the mountains and hunting around until the low growing bushes were found, then she usually killed two or three rattlesnakes which somehow always were near huckleberries). In later years my sisters and brothers and I went with her.

Easier to make was the peach butter and pear marmalade. These trees were near the garden fence which also sheltered the beautiful currant bushes covered with red berries used for making jelly; her grape vines were always loaded with grapes, used for making jelly, as were the wild plum trees; each of these fruits made beautiful jelly, the grape a deep purple, the wild plums a fiery red. Her raspberry patch was one of her prized possessions; she usually canned the black raspberries and made preserves from the red ones.

Her back porch was covered with a vine called hops; this vine had thousands of cone shaped yellow bloom. These she picked and boiled and thickened with flour and corn meal; this mixture was spread one inch thick on a clean cloth, let dry for several months, then cut in squares. The hops are the only source of yeast even today. Two cakes two inches square melted in sweetened warm water made three loaves of delicious home baked bread. All bread was home baked in those days—buckwheat flour for pancakes, corn bread, rye, and whole wheat, all grown on the farm.

Vinegar was made by filling a wooden keg with apple cider. A hole was drilled in the end of the keg; a wooden stopper was made and inserted, to be removed each time the housewife needed more vinegar. It took the cider several months to get sour however.

Every farmer used the same method of making do, with available supplies. In his tool shed he had the necessary tools to shoe his horses, emasculate his pigs, lambs and calves. Amazing how the families managed to survive, no doctors—each family helped the other in childbirth, they made their own medicine. Cherry bark boiled and liquid sweetened with honey for coughs, mint tea for sick stomach, camphor and whiskey for colds and croup. Not even aspirin in 1870, at least in the county.

In August the cabbage was ready for making sauerkraut. One or two neighbors came to help (as they did to cut the apples for apple butter or to string white wax beans to be placed in a 10 gal. crock in salt brine with a press as pickle beans). The cabbage was chopped fine and put into a 10 gallon crock with salt to taste, a stomper was used to start the juice (or brine); this operation continued all day, because it takes many hours to chop fine two or three hundred heads of cabbage. When the crock was full (or perhaps two crocks, size 10 gal.), grape leaves were placed on the top, a 20 pound rock (washed and placed on a board cut to fit the crock) weighted down the process. After a few weeks a brine would rise, then the cut cabbage would sour and lo! and behold! delicious sauerkraut was the result.

Every day or so grandmother churned. The word churned would mean nothing to our youngsters of today, unless they lived on a farm but in 1800 and through the early nineteen hundreds it was a duty, a must, if the family wanted butter. The churn was handmade of wood, so was the dash. An up and down motion (using the dash to quickly stir the cream) began as soon as the sour cream was placed in the churn. After a half hour beautiful yellow creamy butter came to the top of the milk, to be lifted off and made into rolls or pats. Buttermilk (a farmer's delight) was left in the churn; this was removed and chilled for drinking, also for making corn bread or biscuits. Leftovers were given to the chickens.

When I was a child about 1910 I remember gypsies came on their annual forage through our section. Grandma had her wash on the line that day. The mobs of

women who traveled with their husbands and children usually did the stealing. Four of them went to grandmother's kitchen and began baking bread. They baked all afternoon, used a half barrel of flour which was about one hundred pounds, or more. Others of the group stripped the garden and corn field of roasting ears. Also they took quilts, blankets, sheets, towels and clothes. There was no way to stop them. They camped in tents about a mile away and every farmer for miles around was robbed. Cows were milked or butchered for meat. Rail fences were opened and the gypsy horses turned into the meadows. If they stayed all summer, fruit trees were stripped as were the grape vines and berry patches. There was absolutely no relief except in later years, after the county could boast a sheriff, some one would ride to Marlinton and get the sheriff. Then they loaded their wagons and began moving across the mountain to Knapps Creek where there were fresh supplies. None of the men ever seemed to help with the stealing or loading of the covered wagons. Sometimes one would stand close by, with a gun while the woman grabbed anything usable, some of the women were Indians; they kept their babies in the pockets of the tent at night, but strapped to the mother's back in day time. The first World War took the men and after 1916 we never saw them again, although I think there were colonies in Florida, where the children were forced to go to school.

Reminiscing

Hi—this is Frank Colson, Tony's older brother, sons of Louis and Lena Colson.

Jane, when I get your newspaper, The Pocahontas Times, and read up on those tales of the past that many people remember and are telling you about, it brings back memories, tears to my eyes and sadness to my heart. Ah, where have all the years gone.

It's been so long ago that my memory is fading away of my wonderful childhood days in Marlinton. I guess those young young years are the most wonderful and important years of our lives.

I remember faintly of going to grade school across the street from my house on Court Street near the Methodist Church. Mr. Grant was principal at the time; I know this because Mr. Grant gave me a good shaking. I ran into him pretty hard while being chased by another kid. I know when Mr. Johnson became principal we started basketball at the grade school for Bull Dog Kenney was our grade school coach. We had a good little team, even went to Elkins one time and played a high school freshman team. There we got beat but had a lot of fun. I remember Dick Hill who played on the team.

Jane, I remember most of those people and places that 61J11 mentioned in her story. I remember all those and more. I got such a clear picture of everything that I figure she must have been a telephone operator at the time. It was her articles that brought back some fond memories.

I remember several times a group of us kids (we were kids once upon a time, oh, so long ago—years and years) mostly Sundays, we used to go to Stillwell with sling shots (gravel shooters is what we called them) and battle with the kids from Stillwell. That's when the old sawmill was located there—used to have stacks or piles of lumber, maybe three or four rows about twenty feet high with small rail tracks running out to the end, about half to three-quarters mile of track. We would spend all day running, jumping, playing hide and seek and battling a Stillwell gang.

Jim McGraw would probably remember about those good old days. I spent many a day picking blackberries, hunting lizards, sassafras tea roots or fishing up and down Knapps Creek with Jim. I felt like Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer with Jim when we did things together. The truth is we used to make Jim McGraw bat left handed when we played baseball because he was so much better than the rest of us. That's how he became a lefty when it came to batting a ball.

In winter we would sled ride on Stillwell Road. We would come shooting down the road with our home-made chargers (sleds) out on Knapps Creek which would be frozen over. It was great fun or maybe skate there too, or even walk on the ice, to break it or make it real slippery until we could break through and get our feet and clothes wet. Of course, we got a little cold but that didn't matter when we were young.

In the fall we hunted chestnuts on the hill back of the Court House. They were the best in the world. The Black Walnuts were everywhere. We were like squirrels, getting ourselves a big supply of them for the winter. Our hands would be dark brown with stain, but what mattered, it was fun and we were young. Those were the years.

The millions of times I would fill my pockets with those beautiful yellow and delicious early apples in the Yard of the T. S. McNeel family. We would ask them if we could have a couple. They never refused to let us kids have some. Boy, were they good! So mellow and eatable, it makes my mouth water just thinking about them. There are so many things to remember—a quiet peaceful evening of relaxation at Wilbur Sharp's Pool Room, or having a coke at Harry A. Sharps where Tony worked.

You know, Jane, if we could turn back the pages of time and live our lives over again. All those things make Marlinton the world's most wonderful "little country" within a country in the U. S. A.

The people of Marlinton you will never find those wonderful people anywhere else in the world. They are all heart, friendly and interesting. I am grateful to all of them. They all made Tony, Father, Mother, and myself feel like one of them, even though we were Italians. We were treated with respect and kindness. I love them all for that. That's why Marlinton shall always be a part of me. Tony feels the same way. He may live in Florida but his heart is in West Virginia. I feel the same way. In fact, I told my wife when I die to ship my body back home to West Virginia.

I would like to pay my respect to a certain gentleman, Mr. John Hayslett; that is a man someone should write a book about. I would say that John has done more for Marlinton than any one person. He has been the town leader all those years. Anytime there was something to be done Mr. Hayslett got the ball rolling. If someone was sick and needed help, broke and bent John was there. He took a collection or helped in some way. In sports John was the most active member, the biggest cheer leader and coach. He gave everyone that certain drive that got that little bit of extra out of the athlete. He supported sports of any kind with all the leadership of any coach. If anyone got married John got a serenade for them together to wish them happiness. If someone passed away, he was there to help in any way, rich man, poor man, little or big, Mr. Hayslett was the first one to help. He is a fine fellow. He deserves a "John Hayslett Day."

There is lots more to write about Marlinton but the U. S. Mail has too big a burden as it is.

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JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR
THURSDAY, AUG. 5, 1976

History

Glen Vaughan has sent us a copy of Part, 2, Volume III, of his Bicentennial Pocahontas History. He has written his recollections of his early years in Marlinton, included copies of all current reports on the Bicentennial and schools, with several interesting accounts from teachers and a section on the history of CCC camps in Pocahontas by Meade Waugh with some camp papers.

We neglected to put Mr. Vaughan's address in the paper on our plea for more teachers to write the story of their teaching experiences. It is:

Lt. Glen L. Vaughan
(Ret.)
400 Melvin Avenue
Annapolis, Md. 21401

Mr. Vaughan writes that he recently had major surgery and won't be able to make his visit to Pocahontas until fall.

We would like to print some of these recollections if we receive permission.

Also, Mr. Vaughan is seeking someone to research the history of the local schools. Rather than write him a letter, we take this means to remind him that most school records were lost in the fires.

Board of Education

The Board of Education met for a regular meeting on August 10.

The Board met with the Citizens Advisory Committee. Several Committee members gave reports on what they had found concerning the opinion of the general public on the proposal for another bond election. After discussion it was decided that the Board and the Committee need more detailed information on the feelings of the citizens than can be determined by talking with a few people. So it was decided to prepare questionnaires to be filled in by citizens who voted for the bond, against the bond, and did not vote in the May election. A subcommittee was formed to work on this questionnaire and to decide the best method of distribution.

Also meeting with the Board were Bobby Vance and the Board's Treasurer, Betty Lambert. Mr. Vance represented the Pocahontas County Board of Health and presented a request from the Board of Health for an additional $4452.81 contribution from the Board of Education to the 1976-77 Health budget. The Board of Education tabled this request.

Mrs. Lambert reviewed for the Board the June Treasurer's Report, the Investment Report and the preliminary Financial Report for 1975-76. This report will be finalized and printed in the paper at a later date.

The Board accepted the resignation of Mrs. Michele Fomalont as Language Arts teacher at Green Bank.

The following personnel were employed: Mrs. Louise Ann Flegel as Language Arts teacher at Green Bank, Sherwood Wile as fourth grade teacher at Marlinton, Lawrence Mustain as principal at Hillsboro, Floyd Walton, Jack Horner, and Sally Lyles as substitute bus operators.

The Board approved the requests of Lee McMann and Dolan Irvine to take Vocational Agriculture students to the State Fair at Lewisburg on several dates.

The request of Mrs. Nancy Kirk, cook at PCHS, for a maternity leave of absence for the 1976-77 school year was approved.

The Board approved the job description for the position of Special Education Director.

The request of the Green Bank High School class of 1961 to use the Durbin cafeteria for a class reunion on September 4 was approved.

Mr. James Gibb was employed to audit the financial books at all schools for a fee of $500.

It was reported to the Board that only one bid had been received for insurance on the school bus fleet for the 1976-77 school year. This was a bid of $11,267 from the Nationwide Insurance Company. This bid was accepted.

Everett Dilley was appointed to represent the Board of Education on the County Board of Health.

The next regular Board meeting will be on August 24.

Fall Duties:

Her soap making was a marvel of ingenuity. Wood ashes were placed in a hopper (a handmade wooden box atop a chute) which when filled with water dripped very slowly into the chute which drop by drop was lye (a grease cutting liquid); this liquid boiled with lard formed a soap that was the only cleansing agent of that day. In June she sheared the sheep, the wool was washed and sun dried (spread over the back yard). It was then carded (a combing process to break up the tangles and make it ready for the spinning wheel) and spun into yarn. This yarn made mittens, socks and other garments by knitting. Her loom wove the wool yarn into blankets and carpets, colored by boiling bark or berries (poke mostly) and dying them while the wool was still in hanks from the carding and spinning process. New bedding was taken care of in the fall, yards of heavy ticking were made into bed-size cases, filled with fresh straw and placed on the criss-crossed rope that was used as we use bedsprings today. The bulging straw tick was a foot thick. Atop this was another tick filled with goose feathers. Every bed had its bolster, a long pillow the width of the bed; atop this sat two goose feather pillows. Then to make a pretty bed, hand woven bedspreads of different colors were used through the house. On each bed pillow shams covered the pillows (large pieces of muslin embroidered or appliqued. These were starched until they were stiff enough to sit upright over the pillows.

Her well house near the kitchen door in later years contained her spinning wheels, cow bells, sheep bells, sheep shears, garden tools, coffee grinder, candle molds, nutmeg grater, large copper and brass kettles. Her dinner bell atop a tall pole was near by; she used it everyday to call the men home from the fields at noon; each worker slapped the cold water from the well (drawn up on the roller by a chain holding a wooden bucket) on his face, arms and head; this entitled him to a place at the table.

In the fall she made her clothes, skirts long and wide, blouses tucked, lacy and long sleeved, hats flowered with yards of ribbons. Her riding skirt which covered her legs on the side saddle also covered most of one side of the horse. A pair of saddle pockets made of leather was thrown across the back of the saddle; they were filled with paper wrapped eggs. She rode the three miles to Huntersville to Beckley Mc Comb's grocery store once a week; she got 25c for a dozen eggs, but mostly she went to talk to Beckley or whomever might be in the store.

Church on Sunday morning was the only break in the work week. She was a Presbyterian; she could not tolerate the shouting and hysteria of my father's Methodist church. I never saw her cry or even laugh out loud. She did not believe in any outward show of emotion. A gracious lady from her heart to her size 3 button shoes, she was the youngest daughter of Col. Logan and was married to Samuel Hogsett (a grandson of Col. Bradshaw who once owned most of the land from Huntersville to Dunmore.)

I am hoping some of the people who remember her will write to me.

Vera Ritchie
7423 Allan Ave.
Falls Church, Va. 22046

The Brighter Side
By Annie Cromer

Someone wanted me to write about food stamps. I wanted to express my views and experiences with free school lunches but decided on things of a more pleasant nature.

Back to century farms. I have been thrilled with reports from farms that have been in the same family for one hundred years or longer. For the state recognition contest the present owner must be a member of the Farm Bureau.

Ten farmers reported:
Richard McNeel, Hillsboro, 211 years.
Mrs. Harold Murphy, Stony Bottom, 185 years.
Hugh Hill, Hillsboro, 109 years.
Hubert Callison, Hillsboro, 194 years plus.
Howard and Mildred Lee Hevener, Arbovale, 127 years.
Dayton Herold, Marlinton, several years before the Civil War.
Ruth C. Cutlip, Hillsboro, 126 years.
Robert S. Gay, Marlinton, 125 years.
Phillip A. Sheets, Green Bank, 126 plus years.
Genevieve Moore, Marlinton, about 200 years.

July 30 was the deadline for these reports for the state but I still take reports for the County until October 10. Please send me news of your century old farm with any pictures you may have that I may keep for a scrapbook. At the state meeting several counties displayed books with bits of news and pictures that have become history. To my knowledge, no history of the Pocahontas Farm Bureau has been kept in this way.

I would appreciate knowing the oldest farmer in the county. Mrs. Elliot, Boyer, was recognized at the Farm Bureau picnic as an 87 year old farmer. How nice.

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JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR
THURSDAY, AUG. 12, 1976

Pioneer Days—July 8-10, '77

McNeel Bible

The Historical Society has received the following letter from Hubert Taylor, of Wilmington. Delaware, which will be of particular interest to the descendants of John and Martha Davis McNeel.

I am writing to ask your assistance in completing a project that will surely interest you and a multitude of relatives in Pocahontas.

I am a descendant of Martha Davis McNeel through her daughters, Nancy McNeel Hill and Miriam McNeel Jordan. Having an interest in family and community history, it has been my desire to see the Martha Davis McNeel Bible returned to Pocahontas County. Following the death of Miss Mary Thrasher, I contacted the Executor of her will and learned that Miss Mary did not designate any specific disposition of the Bible. I suggested to him that it should be displayed in the Pocahontas County Museum. He agreed with the idea and presented the Bible to me for that purpose.

I am hoping that you will insert an ad in the Times for interested descendants to send a dollar contribution to you to help cover the cost of preparing the Bible for display which will cost about $200. In that manner contributors can share the accomplishment of this special project.

The curator of a local museum has offered suggestions to help prepare a suitable exhibit. Since the Museum has little fire protection, the best solution appears to be to have the opened Bible encased in an abcite box. This is a tough, completely clear, scratch resistant 3/8 inch plastic that is also being used to house the Delaware Tricentennial time capsule. The boxed Bible can be placed in a portable fireproof vault that will be purchased when the Museum is not open.

I have photocopied the fly pages which are in a bad state. The top half of the second fly page has been cut away. The copies of these pages are of poor quality because of faded ink and missing parts of the pages. The title page of the New Testament with the printing date of 1690, along with the first page of Genesis have been copied. There was no title page for the Old Testament. A Mary Davis, not the sister of Martha, had written a note in the margin of a page and dated it 1701. These page copies along with a history of the Bible will be framed or placed behind plexiglass for viewing near where the Bible is exhibited.

The Bible will be opened to the page containing the Twenty-Third Psalm so observers can gleefully translate the Welsh language.

So I'm hoping many of Martha's descendants will assist in making a permanent home for her Bible. The late Dr. John McNeel would have been pleased to help.

Those wishing to make the requested dollar contributions can send them to William McNeel, c-o The Pocahontas Times, Marlinton, W. Va. 24954.

New Hope Lutheran Church Minnehaha Springs 100TH ANNIVERSARY

New Hope Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Springs will celebrate its hundredth anniversary on August 22 with a service at 3 pm.

In the summer of 1876 Henry White and his wife, Sabina, with their family came to Pocahontas County. They were the first Lutherans in this section of the country and to this time New Hope is the only Lutheran Church in this County.

All former pastors now living are invited to be present. It is hoped that all former members and friends of the Congregation will be able to attend this happy occasion.

More details next week.

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For a number of years the congregation was supplied by ministers from the South Branch Charge of Highland and Pendleton Counties. Later it was made a congregation of its own along with Valley Center and Headwaters, Virginia. Rev. M. A. Ashby served this congregation from 1895 to 1897. Rev. P. L. Snapp was called in 1898 and served here until the summer of 1900. He was succeeded by Rev. S. H. Puffenbarger who was here until 1906.

From 1906 New Hope had occasional services by visiting pastors until 1928 when Rev. Paul Lautensblager accepted a call to the Thorn Spring Parish. Around 1936 Rev. Siegfried Kullman was called as an assistant pastor. Then in 1946, while Rev. Orville E. Luech was pastor, New Hope was made a part of the Franklin Parish. This Parish includes New Hope, Faith at Franklin, and Mt. Hope at Upper Tract and is now served by Rev. Joseph Bartczak.

All former pastors, members relatives, and friends of the Congregation are invited to attend this happy occasion of our hundredth anniversary.

The guest speaker will be Rev. Andrew Ballas, a former pastor, now pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Dresbler, Ohio. A fellowship meal - pot luck - will be served after the service.

New Hope Lutheran Church Hundredth Anniversary

A capacity crowd enjoyed a beautiful day, an appropriate service, and a fine meal last Sunday afternoon as the New Hope Lutheran congregation at Minnehaha Springs celebrated its one hundredth anniversary. Pictured are the present and preceeding two pastors of the New Hope Church. On the left is the Rev. Andrew Ballas, pastor 1960 - 1964, who is now pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Deshler, Ohio; the Rev. Cecil Bradfield, pastor 1964 - 1971, and now a professor at Madison College in Harrisonburg, Virginia; and the Rev. Joseph Bartczak, pastor at New Hope since 1971. Rev. Ballas delivered the message for the anniversary service.

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JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR
THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1976

History of Edray Community

Edray Community is bounded on the west by Stony Creek range of mountains, on the north by Elk Mountain, to the top of Slippery Hill on the Clover Creek road, then to the Bridger Place on the Greenbrier River where Paul Sharp now lives, on the south by the top of river ridges including the Fairview and Brush settlements to the top of Drinnen Ridge where the state road crosses, and to Elmer Sharps at the foot of Stony Creek Mountain. This community is about five miles wide where the state road crosses and ten miles long from east to west.

First Settlers

The Drinnons were the first settlers in Edray community. Thomas Drinnon settled near Edray Graveyard. There is some difference of opinion as to the exact spot where the Drinnon cabin stood, but I feel sure it was on the bank just close to the graveyard. A spring under the bank has always, since my earliest recollection, been called the Drinnon Spring. Other proof is an old apple orchard, trees of large size, mostly winter apples, near the spot where the cabin stood. My father, Isaac Moore, went to this orchard in the fall with the wagon for winter apples when I was a small boy, though large enough to pick apples from the ground. My uncle Robert Moore and his boys always called this field the "Old Orchard Field" and it goes by that name yet. A part of the field belongs to A. R. Gay and the other part belongs to Wm. M. Sharp's heirs, all of which once belonged to Thomas Drinnon, first settler in this community. He owned a large boundary of land, several thousand acres that extended from Indian Draft to Stony Creek. Drinnon's Ridge took its name from the old settler, an everlasting monument.

Drinnon's home was broken up by the Indians. His wife was captured and taken away. She was murdered somewhere in Elk Mountain.

Charles Drinnon, a brother of Thomas Drinnon, settled near Onoto. He cleared a field which bears the name "Charley Field" which is now owned by Anderson Barlow.

The Drinnons all left this country many years ago. I remember seeing James Drinnon, a member of the distinguished family. I think the Drinnons went to the north western part of the state.

Robert Moore, my grandfather, was a son of Moses Moore, who was captured by the Indians. (See W. T. Price's History of Pocahontas County for a full account of this capture)

Robert Moore, Sr. once lived at the Bridger Place, reared his family there. My father, Isaac Moore, was born and reared there. One brother, Andrew, fell from a tree and was killed while other members of the family were stirring off a kettle of sugar. About 1820 Robert Moore, Sr. moved to Edray and settled on the Drinnon holdings. He and his boys opened up a fine farm and erected a fine two story brick dwelling house, the only brick building in the community. I believe the lumber that went into the house was all sawed with the whip saw, as at that time there was no water power saw mills. The broad ax was extensively used in getting out all of the heavy timber for buildings. Robert Moore and his wife lived and died in the brick mansion. Buried in the Edray graveyard. He was born in 1768, died in 1858, age of 90 years. His wife born in 1771, died 1855, age 84 years. These graves were the first in Edray Graveyard. Robert Moore's real estate was divided with his boys and one daughter. The names of the sons were Isaac, James, William, and Robert, Jr. Robert received the old homestead, lived there many years, sold to J. W. Sharp about 1867 for seven thousand dollars, that included the upper part of the place now owned by Isaac Sharp's heirs. I want to say just here, there was an old house stood about halfway between the old brick house and the gate at the road. I think the old settler built and occupied this house while the brick house was being erected. When I was a small boy elections were held in the old house. There was no ticket or ballot used. The Commissioner or conductor of election asked the voter, "Who do you vote for?

My father, Isaac Moore, settled in the woods where I now live. Father's house was a hewed log house, about 16x20 ft., shaved shingle roof, chinked and daubed walls, one door and one window in the first story and same in second story. The porch was on the side and stairs went up from the porch. In 1911 I built a new frame house on the spot where the old house stood. R. S. Jordan and Jeff Killingsworth were the contractors.

The soil of Edray community is productive. The upland is largely limestone naturally sod with bluegrass when shade is taken off. The flat land below the mountains is sandstone, not as rich as the limestone and not so good for grazing but better for farming when improved. Produces well and less liable to wash from heavy rains.

1 of 3

As to timber in this community, it has been covered with all kinds of hardwood, basswood, some spruce high on the mountains, hemlock along streams. Some of the most valuable timber is black walnut, ash cherry, red oak, white oak, a great deal of which has been cut and shipped. Other hard woods are chestnut, oak, some black oak, pin oak and sugar. There is still some yellow pine on the flats.

Edray can boast of the best water in the state, both limestone and free stone. There are many bowled springs around the foot of the mountains, always flowing, never dry. Namely at Elmer Sharps, E. R. Sharps, a sulphur spring at E. R. Sharps, bowled spring at the Cochran Place, at A. C. Barlows head of Big Spring, now owned by Bank of Marlinton, and sufficient to run a grist mill with twenty foot overshot water wheel. Other bowled springs at M. K. Sharps, G. W. Manns and Drinnon Spring at Mrs. J. W. Price's at Edray. John D. Gay owns head of Indian Draft. Other fine springs not named. There are many drilled wells in the flats, all good water.

Some of the first schools were taught in the old farm homes. One among the first, if not the first, was in an old house near Mrs. George Baxter's home. The house was a round log structure, clapboard roof, held in place with press poles. The fireplace took up most of one end of the house. It was made of rough stone, chimney made of slats and mud. Now for light, paper was pasted over crucks and greased to give light. Other cracks in the building were chinked and daubed. Seats were made of split logs or poles, holes bored and pins put in for legs. The term of school was about three months. The salary was one dollar per scholar a month. Writing was done with quill pens. The teacher boarded with scholars. My father, Isaac Moore, taught at this school when a young man. The first schools were called Open Schools—every one spelled and read aloud. The first school I attended was at Indian Draft, now called Mt. Pleasant. The building was constructed of round logs, chinked and daubed, covered with boards, a rough stone chimney and a large fireplace. Seats were of split logs or poles set on wooden pins. Figuring was all done on slates. No lead pencils or tablets used in those days. The writing was done with quill pens. The desk to write on was a plank against the wall. One or two small windows, and for additional light greased paper was pasted over cracks.

The first church in Edray community was built on Stony Creek and called Hamlin Church. It is a hewed log building, cracks chinked, and daubed, shaved shingle roof, side galleries, seats—long benches with slat backs. Door in one end of building, elevated pulpit in other end. Two small, twelve light windows on sides. Some years ago the side galleries were taken out and building ceiled, benches were taken out and chairs put in. This church is still in use and was built near 1835, as the records show it was deeded July 4, 1835.

Edray church was built in 1883. E. D. King was contractor and builder. Contract price above foundation $700 for his work. Lakin and Peters furnished about twenty thousand feet of lumber from their mill at Clover Lick, delivered at the Gay Siding, now in Fair Ground for ten dollars per thousand—white pine lumber. All heavy lumber was sawed at Edray by D. H. Garber and Bros. Everything summed up, all told, the Edray church cost $2032.25.

Edray Post Office was the first post office in Edray community. When looking for a name Mrs. Eliza Moore, mother of the late George P. Moore, being a Bible reader suggested a Bible name, she said "call the Post Office Edri." Leaving off the ri and adding ry, making Edray the name of the first post office. (see Numbers 21:33). This office was established about 1850. As soon as George P. Moore was of age he became postmaster and continued to be until his death in 1922. He was the oldest postmaster in the United States.

There are now six churches in Edray community, nine frame school buildings, about one hundred and ten families averaging five members to the family, estimated at five hundred and fifty.

About five miles of state road in this community. On the point of Wolf Pen Ridge

on Elk Mountain from the state road a very fine view of our community can be had and we challenge all of West Virginia for a more beautiful scene than the community and surrounding mountains. The roads are in fair condition. Travel is done mostly by automobiles.

Mail routes and telephones throughout the community.

The village of Edray has two stores at present. The first store at Edray was kept and owned by William Allen at the place where Elmer Poages now live. Isaac McNeil, George P. Moore and Amos Barlow kept store at this same place years ago.

George P. Moore built the store building that A. R. Gay now occupies.

At one time there was a successful tan yard in Edray, owned by A. J. Smith and Brothers.

Robert Moore, Sr. built a mill at the head of Big Spring. This house was a hewed log building, two or more stories high, equipped with a twenty foot overshot water wheel, and water trunk from head of spring. This water never freezes up in winter nor goes dry in summer. Inside equipment of mill consisted of two sets of runners, both country made, one for grinding wheat and other for grinding corn and chops.

The first sawmill of the community was built near the grist mill by Isaac Moore and got water from the same source as grist mill. These mills were used for many years and was one of the important business centers of the community.

Viewing the past and the present we see that old things have passed away and all things have become new.

Respectfully submitted
S. B. Moore

Miss Helen Gay shares with us this history of Edray Community dictated many years ago by S. B. Moore.

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JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR

THURSDAY, SEPT. 9, 1976

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

First day enrollments for the Pocahontas County Schools, with last year enrollment in parenthesis:

Marlinton 671 (688)
Hillsboro 253 (257)
Durbin 161 (170)
Green Bank 350 (334)
High School 544 (557)
Total 1979 (2006)

These enrollments will no doubt change slightly during the first few weeks of school.

P. C. H. S. ATHLETICS

Varsity Football

Nicholas County, 7 - PCHS, 6

Sept. 10, PCHS at Richwood, 8 pm

Sept. 17, Greenbrier West at PCHS, 8 pm

J V Football

Greenbrier East, 14 - PCHS, 8

Sept. 20, PCHS at Greenbrier West, 7 pm

Ninth Grade Football

Sept. 9, White Sulphur Springs at PCHS, 7 pm

Sept. 16, Webster County at PCHS, 1:30 pm

Varsity Girls Basketball

Sept. 14, PCHS at Petersburg, 1:30 pm

New Teachers

Pocahontas County and the County's schools are pleased to welcome the following new teachers:

Durbin

Lella Ann Dilley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Dilley, of Dunmore, AB degree from Glenville College.

Thomas Stipe, of York, Pennsylvania, BS degree from York College.

Green Bank

Benjamin Campbell, son of Mrs. Geneva Campbell, of Dunmore, AB degree from Glenville College.

Louise Ann Flegel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Burner, of Cass, BS degree from W. Va. University, previously taught at Bruceton High School.

Kathern Hall, of Clendenin, BS degree from W. Va. University.

Rebecca O'Brien, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jamie Sheets, of Green Bank, BS and MS degrees from W. Va. University, previously taught at Oxford Elementary School, in Iowa, and Ouzinkie Elementary School, in Alaska.

Hillsboro

Larry Mustain, Principal, from Ronceverte, AB degree from William & Mary College, previously taught at the Lewiston Job Corps Center, California, Anthony Job Corps Center, Neola, Branchville Job Corps Center, Indiana, Golconda Job Corps Center, Illinois, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, and Union Elementary School.

Curtis Vick, from Huntington, AB degree from Marshall University.

Lillie Witt, from Kentucky, BS and MA degrees from Union College, in Kentucky.

Marlinton

Marilyn Armstrong, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Armstrong, of Buckeye, AB degree from Glenville College.

Delmos Barb, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Barb, of Marlinton, AB degree from Glenville.

Harry Booth, from Elkins, AB degree from Bethany College.

Laurel Booth, from Trappe, Pennsylvania, AB degree from Bethany College.

Jane Cogar, from Buckhannon, AB degree from W. Va. Wesleyan.

Yvonne Lannan, from Marlinton, AB degree from Davis & Elkins College, previously taught at Union High School, China Spring Elementary School in Texas, Paden City Elementary School.

Diana Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Shifflett, of Marlinton, AB degree from Glenville College

Peter Tennant, from Blacksville, BS degree from W.Va. University.

Alice Williams Vance, from Illinois, AB degree from Northwestern University, MA degree from New York University, MS degree from the State University of New York, previously taught at the Dalton School in New York City.

Sherwood Wile, from Port Washington, New York, BS degree from North Adams State College, previously taught at the Linden Hill School in Massachusetts.

Pocahontas County High School

Jane Foster, Special Education, from Harrisville, AB degree from Glenville.

County-wide

Anna Cornell Moore, Speech therapist, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Moore of Marlinton, BS degree from Madison College.

Remarks of Superintendent of Schools, James D. Lannan, to the County Teachers.

I want you to know that I've searched my mind for something really impressive—profound if you will—something genuinely exciting to say at this county wide meeting. Those efforts, however, were entirely unsuccessful and I came to realize that most of what I might have said has been said before by superintendents far more venerable than myself, therefore you've heard it before. We live in such a world of noise and chatter I sometimes wonder if there's anything new that remains to be said.

In addition to that it isn't all that appropriate for a superintendent to address himself in an instructive fashion to teachers and to service and auxiliary personnel. For you're where the action is. You're with boys and girls on an hourly, day-by-day basis. You touch children. You help them. You form impressions in them that will have a lasting impact on their lives. It is axiomatic that years from now a great deal of what these youngsters shall have become will be directly attributable to your efforts. Me? I do not have the opportunity for this intimate and powerful contact with America's tomorrow. The nature of my job is such that I wrestle with papers, and numbers and finances, and aging buildings and frustrated employees. Frankly, I don't know which task is the most maddening.

In a very real fashion I envy you the experiences that await you this year. I know that you'll experience impatience...you'll feel anger, and dread and defeat and a whole host of mixed emotions. But if you're the real professionals that I've come to know you are, you'll rise above these emotions and realize that what makes this system work, and therefore what contributes to the people of this county in a really dynamic fashion is you. Without you or someone like you, it couldn't be done. Be proud of that; I'm proud to be part of your team.

Do you know what's the most difficult part of my job? Criticism! Oh my, do I ever get it, and do I bristle under criticism. And of all the criticism that we received last year, and most school systems are falling under the fist of public criticism these days, the most illegitimate complaint was that we didn't care. "They don't care... The teacher doesn't understand. She doesn't care. The principal doesn't care. The superintendent doesn't care. The Board doesn't care." How often I heard that from some angry, or hurt, or confused parent. I knew it wasn't true and you know it wasn't and isn't true. But sometimes— in fact all the time— it's not only important what is true, but what people believe to be true.

Let's work hard on that this year, folks. Let's go the extra mile, and then another, and still another beyond that with the young people and the parents of Pocahontas County. That doesn't mean the dilution of subject matter, or the abrogation of authority, or the abandonment of discipline. It doesn't mean any of these things.

It means only that we must commit ourselves to convincing people— students and parents and taxpayers alike— what we're all about... That we do care. Sure we work for money. We've taken no vows of poverty. But we go beyond simply earning wages. We're in the business of building lives; developing citizens for tomorrow. Ours is the task of taking kids where we find them, and challenging them, scolding, pushing, pulling, begging, exciting them— and all the time caring and showing it— until they're better people for having known us. Let this be the year that people will view your efforts with the real admiration that you richly deserve. Spare children your sharp words. Spare them the feelings of despair that you will inevitably feel and that will surface in the form of sarcasm, or cutting remarks.

Care for them.....and show it.

Jane has first Part
of Vol. III Part 2.

These pages to be added
to her copy.

Jane has Vol III Part 2 -
as delivered while on vacation -
These pages should be added
to her copy.

Pearl Buck Life Membership Gift

Woman's Club

The Friendship Dinner of the Marlinton Woman's Club opened the new year Friday, September 10, at the Edray Community Center. A delicious turkey dinner was served by Mary Shafer. It was a night of surprises. A gift package was presented to Mrs. Steve Hunter, president, which, when opened, revealed a $1000 check from Miss Julia Price for a life membership to the Pearl Buck Birthplace Foundation for the Marlinton Woman's Club. Miss Price was presented with a beautiful basket of flowers: pink carnations for the club flower, roses for love, and daisies for practicality. Then there was an additional surprise as the Club Year Books were opened and a dedication of 1976-77 Club Year was dedicated to Miss Julia L. Price for her generous gift in the Club's name, helping to assure that "My Mother's House" —Pearl Buck's birth home — may live again.

Mrs. Kerth Nottingham was wished a happy birthday in song, and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Morgan were remembered for their fortieth wedding anniversary, and Mrs. Marvin Perry led in group singing, accompanied by Mr. Perry on the harmonica.

Members and guests attending were: Miss Peggy Smith, Miss Alice Waugh, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Perry, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Morgan, Mrs. Gordon Dilley, Mrs. Lee Barlow, Miss Julia Price, Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Bumgardner, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Gibson, Mrs. John Pritchard, Rev. and Mrs. Eugene TenBrink, Mr. and Mrs. William McNeel, Mrs. Jane Sharp, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Rexrode, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Hunter, Mrs. Glenn Shrader, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Cooper, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Hite, Mrs. Rachel Sharp, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Curry, Mr. and Mrs. Neal Kellison, Eugene Simmons, Mrs. Kerth Nottingham, Mrs. Grace Harper, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Montgomery, Mr. and Mrs. Layman Davis, Mrs. Eldridge McCormack, Mrs. Sherman Moore, Mr. and Mrs. J. Z. Johnson.

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JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR
THURSDAY, SEPT. 16, 1976

Board of Education

The Board of Education met for a regular meeting on September 13. Representatives from the Citizens Advisory Committee met with the Board and presented a proposed questionnaire to be distributed to the citizens of the county. The purpose of the questionnaire is to determine the feelings of the County's people as to why the school bond was defeated in May and the direction in which the Board should move in alleviating the poor physical condition of the County's schools. The Board approved the questionnaire and the Committee's plans for distributing it to the public by use of The Pocahontas Times and personal contact.

Mrs. Minnie Cochran met with the Board concerning establishing a school bus stop for her children on Buckeye Hill.

Dale Curry and Doug Dunbrack met with the Board on behalf of the Pioneer Days Committee. They expressed the Committee's thanks for the Board's past cooperation with Pioneer Days and made a request for the use of the Marlinton School facilities during Pioneer Days in 1977. They also asked that the Board established a set policy for the use of the school facilities to prevent the problems that arose this past Spring with the circus and carnival using the Marlinton athletic field.

The Board accepted the resignation of Frederick VanNostran as science and math teacher at Green Bank.

Robert Crist was transferred from Durbin to Green Bank as science teacher.

The Board employed Thomas Stipe as science and math teacher at Durbin.

The request of Mrs. Catherine Bartels for a maternity leave beginning in February was approved.

Mrs. Mary Brundage was transferred from Durbin to third grade teacher at Green Bank due to increased enrollment at Green Bank.

Mrs. Heidi Hickson and Mrs. Agnes Bennett were employed as substitute cooks at Green Bank.

Samuel Taylor, Paul Kesler, Jr., James Meek, and Wallace Dorn were employed as substitute bus drivers.

Kay J. Spruill was added to the substitute teacher list.

The Board considered increased insurance coverage for the High School and deferred action on this until the next meeting.

The request of the Girl Scouts to use the art room at Green Bank for meetings was approved.

The Board approved the request of Larry Mustain to use private vehicles to transport the Hillsboro football team to games on September 25 and October 2.

The purchase of two or three 66 passenger school buses was authorized. These buses are to be purchased under the State Purchasing Plan with bids to be received on a statewide basis. The number the County will buy will depend on the bid price. These buses will be paid for out of the 1978 Fiscal Budget.

The Board approved the July and August Treasurer's Reports, September Investment Report, July Financial Report, August Payroll, and the Annual Financial Report. The Annual Report was printed in the paper last week.

The Superintendent advised the Board of problems concerning the sewage system at Green Bank and that steps are underway to rectify these problems.

The next Board meeting will be Monday, September 27.

The Gibson History

Written for the Gibson Reunion, held on July 11, 1976, by Harold David Gibson, son of Allie C. Gibson and the late Forest Gibson.

My Mother has the history
of the Gibsons in her head,
But this history assignment
was given to me instead.
If you want to hear all sides
of the fence
Speak to her and it all
makes sense.

Not much is known to be
truly exact,
Of the history of us Gibsons
from David on back.
Revolutionary heroes we
cannot readily acclaim.
But we are proud to be
Gibsons all the same.

David, from Waynesboro,
in the 1800's came
To settle in Hillsboro
Western Virginia—now of
Pearl Buck fame.
Over now Elk Mountain
beyond the crooked fork
Here he and his wife, Mary
Sharp did raise
Five sons and three
daughters in God's grace
William, Jim, John, Doctor
Dave and Jake,
Mary, Nancy and Lizzie
married and new names
did take.

Jim and Jane Friel, seven
children did rear
Jake married a Wamsley,
killed in the Civil War
and no children did bear
John and Mary Towsend
added Sam, Nancy and
Joe
Mary and Rankin Poage
bore another two
Three children had Martha
Hogan and Doctor Dave
He was called Uncle Doc—
Many lives he did save.

And to get to the more
immediate concern
We wish to pay homage to
those who have passed
on
Harlan and Dock, the last of
Jim's sons, Cloe, Julian,
Ray Lewis and Earl their
work is done.
We do not mourn, but wish
to praise
The useful purpose served
during their days
To those who are sick and
in need of bed care
Our prayers and best
wishes together we share

As a footnote to those not
here, I'd like to add
There are those who are
sick, and other reasons to
be had
Those of us present—
descendants of William
outnumber the other
We do not boast, but hope
that rather
Future Gibson reunions will
continue to grow
And include the host of
others who did not show
So, to all of us here, be of
good cheer
And we hope to see all of
you back with us next
year!

Seven children Nancy and
Sam Gay did grace
Lizzie and James McClure
eight more were blessed
William and Polly Gay were
wed
For death of three children,
tears were shed
Add Sam, George, Jim-
Robert, Mary and Sally
To most of us here as
descendants do rally.

David is buried in Moffett
Cemetery, atop the hill
His wife honored by
"Mary's Chapel," where
they worship still.

Both sides did they take in
war of rebellion
Some refused to fight and
were taken to prison
Gunfire from the soldiers
were heard
By our grandfathers at play
In this Pleasant Valley we
inhabit today.

Waugh, Shelton, Jackson,
Moore, Hannah, Varner,
and Mace
Kramer, McLaughlin, Jordan, Showalter, Schaffer
and Yates
Miller, Rankin, Meeks,
Thomas and Shear add to
the line
Higgins, Hammond, Rider,
and Stalnaker, all mighty
fine
Baxter, Beverage and Price
—It goes on and on
For names not mentioned,
the Gibson seed is still
being sown
Names, religion and nationalities intertwine
But continue the blood of
the Gibson line.

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JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR
THURSDAY, SEPT. 30, 1976

Board of Education

The Board of Education met for a regular meeting on September 27.

The Board met with Architect K. F. Weimer to review the plans for the elementary schools.

The Board approved the payment in lieu of transportation to Mrs. Bertha Defibaugh of 75 cents per day per child for each day the child is in attendance at school.

Approval was given for the use of a school bus to transport fifth grade students of Green Bank School to the Cass Train on October 11.

The resignation of Theodore Callahan as bus driver was accepted.

Alfred Dilley was employed as a regular bus driver.

The request of the Marlinton School to take the football team by bus to Upper Glade on October 14 was approved.

The Board approved a request for maternity leave from Lura June Fauber, Speech Therapist, from October 20 to January 3.

Approval was given for the Hillsboro football team to be transported to Renick on October 20 by private cars.

Permission was given for a classroom at the High School to be used for the Adult Basic Education Class one night a week.

Mrs. Anna Virginia Hayes was employed as an Aide at Durbin for the balance of the 76-77 school year.

The Board approved the use of the High School gym and cafeteria on October 16 for the 4-H Achievement Program.

Approval was given for use of the Green Bank auditorium for a Community Forum meeting on October 12.

Approval was given for the Green Bank Women Sports Group to use the Green Bank Gym every Thursday night for a physical fitness program.

The use of the Marlinton cafeteria for a Marlinton Chamber of Commerce dinner on October 11 was approved.

The Board approved the request of the Hillsboro PTA for a Fall Music Show on October 3 on the Hillsboro Athletic field. Proceeds to be used to buy books for grade 5-8.

Approval was given for the Marlinton Rotary Club to use the Marlinton cafeteria for meetings on Monday nights.

Approval was given for the Girl Scouts to use a room in the Marlinton School on the first and third Tuesday of each month for meetings.

Approval was given to a supplement to the 76-77 budget due to the larger than expected surplus from the 75-76 budget.

The Board approved a revision in the 76-77 budget to include additional money from the state to pay for increased salaries.

The request of Bio-Preps Laboratories, of Fairmont, to offer a blood screening examination to school personnel and the general public was approved. The exact dates will be announced.

The Board approved the purchase of bleachers for the High School athletic field to seat approximately 500 fans and the band. The cost will be $2,000 to $2,500.

The Board approved increased insurance coverage on the High School building and contents to cover the increased valuation from $2,666,966 last year to $3,029,926 at the present time. The policy on the High School is one that covers 90% of total lose of the building and 100% of any loss less than total. The additional premium was $1,065.

The Board adopted the following policy for the general use of school facilities and for the Pioneer Days Committee to have exclusive use of the school facilities during Pioneer Days:

It shall be the policy of the Pocahontas County Board of Education to permit the use of school facilities by various civic, social, fraternal, and private organizations so long as the public is served in the areas of cultural exposure and/or enlightenment, or wherein the public is best served in the area of worthy use of leisure time.

It is the will of the Board, however, that no such usage prevent or disrupt the educational program for which the facilities were originally designed and intended, and that such activities shall in no fashion distract children in the pursuit of their education, or create unseemly, unhealthy or potentially dangerous situations for them in the school environment. As an example, circus, carnivals, etc., during the school term on school property will be considered in violation of the above and as such will be prohibited. Activities of this nature may be undertaken during the vacation period provided that there is no risk of damage to the property, and no health or safety hazard is created for the public in general by such. Judgments as to the propriety of the above shall be made by the superintendent acting in conjunction with appropriate authorities who may advise him on unusual circumstances.

EXCLUSIVE USE OF FACILITIES: The Board, being aware that Pioneer Days activities, conducted under the auspices of the Pioneer Days Committee, represent a valuable contribution to the transmittal and perpetuation of the Pocahontas County heritage, shall grant exclusive rights to said Committee for use of school facilities during such period as shall be identified as Pioneer Days. The execution of such rights by said Committee, however, shall be in accord with the terms of Item No. 1 of this policy. The Pioneer Days Committee, in brief, will bear the entire burden of responsibility for all elements tangent to and associated with such activities approved by it and conducted under its auspices.

The next Board meeting will be October 11.

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THURSDAY, OCT. 7, 1976

Marlinton Junior High Football

The Marlinton Junior High School got their second win of the season by beating Hillsboro, 8-0. The game was played in a downpour. Although the weather wasn't ideal, both teams played well.

Mike Doss did all the scoring for the Copperheads. His touchdown run of 2 yards gave the Copperheads the winning points. Doss also scored the point after touchdown on a run around right end.

Hillsboro and Marlinton both played outstanding defense. Some of the leading defensive players for the Copperheads were Rick McCarty, Laurence Kiner, Jess Heavener, and Glenn Taylor. Terry Kramer and Chuck Beverage both had pass interceptions.

The Copperheads play at home again this weekend, Saturday, Oct. 9, at 7:30. They will be playing Green Bank.

This Thursday, Oct. 7, there will be a boosters meeting in the gym at 7:30.

Girl's Basketball

The Warrior girls basketball got their first victory of the season, playing against Webster County, Tuesday night.

The girls were leading through the whole game.

The highest scorers were Lottie Buzzard with 9 and Cathy Coleman with 8. Leading rebounders were Vicki Shears 9 and Cathy Coleman 8.

The girls also had a winning game on Thursday September 30; they played against Circleville.

The girls played a hard defensive game. They kept playing hard right down to the last quarter. The high scorer was Cathy Coleman with 18 points, next was Lottie Buzzard with 8.

Leading rebounder was Cathy Coleman with 12, next was Teresa Rose with 7.

Congratulations girls, good luck.

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THURSDAY, OCT. 14, 1976

College Day at PCHS

On October 11, 1976, PCHS junior and senior students received college information firsthand during the school's college day program. Eighteen state colleges and universities were present and each student could talk to any three representatives. The college representatives presented a short program and then answered all questions relating to their individual college. The students received applications, financial information and all general information pertaining to attending college. The students could also talk to the representatives individually after the program.

Board of Education

The Board of Education met for a regular meeting on October 11, 1976.

The Board approved the following requests for the use of school buildings:

— High School cafeteria and band room by the Pocahontas Producers Co-operative Association and Pocahontas County Farm Bureau on November 13,

— Hillsboro cafeteria by the Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Department on October 30 for a Ham and Oyster Dinner,

— A classroom at Green Bank by the Girl Scouts on Thursday afternoons for a meeting room,

— Hillsboro, Green Bank and Marlinton buildings by the County Commission for the General Election on November 2,

— Marlinton gym by the Athletic Boosters Club for a dance on October 23.

Approval was given for Hillsboro students to be transported by private car to a football game at Renick on October 20 and for Marlinton students to be transported by private car to football games at Hillsboro on October 30 and Green Bank on November 6.

The request to use a school bus to transport the Green Bank football team to Upper Glade on October 28 was approved.

Permission was given for Whitman Hull to attend the National Association for Pupil Transportation Convention in St. Louis on November 14-18. The cost is approximately $400 which is 80% reimbursable by the state.

The Board approved the payment of 50c per day for each child for each day of school attendance, in lieu of transportation, to Mrs. David Cassell, Green Bank.

Permission was given to advertise for bids for a new dump truck chassis.

The Board approved the September payroll and payment of various bills.

Board President McNeel reported on the recent meeting of the W. Va. School Board Association that he and Superintendent Lannan attended.

The next regular Board meeting will be October 25.

PCHS Football

PCHS came out of a 6—6 halftime tie to down Franklin 22—6 in a water covered field Friday night.

Alfred Pondexter scored three touchdowns and Mark Waslo scored a two point conversion then passed to David L. Cassell for another.

Franklin scored early in the first quarter but a strong Warrior defense shut them out for the remaining three quarters. The defense was led by strong linebacking of Rick Doyle and Fred Tibbs. Other standouts were Mark Gum, Richard Oref and Glen Arbogast. The defensive team was composed of six sophomores, two juniors and three seniors.

PCHS plays Kingwood in the Homecoming game this week.

The Warriors have been playing good football but a tough schedule has kept them out of the winning column until this week. The combined record of 4 PCHS opponents is 23 wins and 3 losses.

Nicholas County is 5-1
Richwood 5-1
Greenbrier West 6-0
Marsh Fork 5-1
Greenbrier West 6-0

The teams on this year's schedule are unusually tough.

The PCHS staff and Team would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Tony Ricottilli for the fine meal they furnished in Beckley on the Marsh Fork trip.

Flood

The rains came and the river rose.

Friday night at 11:03 the automatic flood alarm system sounded in the Marlinton Volunteer Fire Department office, which first indicates from upper drainage areas that a 10 foot level of water will 4 hours later be at the Marlinton bridge. Twenty-four hours later (after 11 p.m. Saturday), the alarm reset itself when the water level went below flood stage, after reaching a crest of 13.1 feet at Marlinton and 16.55 feet at Buckeye about 3 p.m.

This system enabled the Fire Department to chart within a few inches the time and actual level of the water, being in constant communication with Cincinnati and other information centers.

Ilean Walton, at Buckeye, said the rainfall was 4.5 inches. Moody Moore, on Browns Creek, reported about 4.5 in 24 hours from Friday morning to Saturday morning. The Observatory at Green Bank recorded Thursday at 6 a.m. for the previous 24 hours .03 inches, Friday morning 1.7 inches, Saturday 3.62 inches, Sunday .55 inches.

Deer Creek was the highest in many years.

The heaviest rainfall was in the Edray - Woodrow areas, with about six inches of rain being considered the average everywhere. Douthards' Creek area had the least.

The Greenbrier at Marlinton was 16 to 18 inches below the level in the 1967 flood and this was true at Buckeye. Knappa Creek was not as high as usual.

Riverside area had lots of water from Stony Creek and the Greenbrier. First Avenue around the bridge in Marlinton was flooded with water in homes and trailers. Fas Chek had about a foot of water. Burns Motor Freight had two feet of water in its offices. Foodland had water all around but only seepage inside. Some camping trailers went down the river at Buckeye. Mayor Carl Davis said some road washing was their main damage at Cass.

Marlinton Volunteer firemen were on duty from Friday until midnight Saturday, then worked Sunday to help pump basements and clean up debris. The Observatory and Hillsboro Fire Department helped Saturday. The volunteers kept watch, warned, help move things out of the water's reach, cleaned up, and in general proved to be good samaritans. We thank them.

Joe Smith caught a small fish in the floodwaters in front of Home Products Meat Market on Third Avenue in Marlinton.

Don Wooddell saw a black cow and TV go down the Greenbrier.

Bob Miller and other Telephone Utilities workers were watching the floodwaters off the bridge and saw a doe deer come down the river. As it neared the bridge the deer turned easily to the left and left the water near the hospital. It was sighted by several people as it bounded along through several properties, in and out of the water, to cross over the railroad across from Stanley Wooddell's.

Bill Bob Meadows saw a deer come down the Thomastown road and get caught in Clarence Smith's fence. He left it for Clarence to cut loose.

POCAHONTAS TIMES
(Page 2)
Published every Thursday except the last week of the year.
Entered at the Post Office at Marlinton, West Virginia 24954, as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGES
In Pocahontas County $4.50 a year. Elsewhere $5.50 a year. In advance.

JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR

THURSDAY, OCT. 21, 1976

Pioneer Days—July 8-10, '77

School Memories

Last week we published a most interesting account of the early school days and experiences as a teacher in Pocahontas County of Mrs. Louise McNeill Pease. These were written last spring in Connecticut. Since then Mr. and Mrs. Pease have moved to Lewisburg and her address is 517 East Washington Street, Lewisburg.

Early Schools of Pocahontas County WHERE ARE THEY?

In an article from the Pocahontas Independent of March 21, 1912, brought to the Pocahontas Times Office by Alice Waugh. This article was written by then Superintendent of Pocahontas County Schools, Mr. B. B. Williams. This was a published letter to the public entitled, "Pocahontas Teachers Lack Preparation".

The letter contained many suggestions and although is quite lengthy my mention is this: — There were one hundred and ten (110) schools or grounds but only thirteen (13) were fenced, and only three out of every four pupils in the county were in school. Teachers certification, libraries, etc. will not be brought up in this item.

How can we reason or believe that in what is now Pocahontas County we can locate the homesites of over ninety percent of our forefathers who fought in the Revolutionary War from the Point to Yorktown over two hundred years ago and now in 1976 are unable or do not care about the names and locations of the old one to four room schools, teachers, students, etc., for the past fifty to seventy-five years.

The County's High schools are well taken care of themselves through their school Year Books. Would suggest that the County Museum obtain at least two copies of each year from the old E.D.H.S., Hillsboro, Green Bank and now Pocahontas County High School. They should be kept in two separate locations so a fire that destroyed the old one room schools, would not completely wipe out their records.

Due to a fire that destroyed the records of the old schools to make a complete list now would be next to impossible— but let us try.

The following list are a few of the names that have been in the Pocahontas Times during the past eighteen months so please write about your early schooling, classmates, grades in, name and location of schools— teachers and where they stayed. Conduct of student bodies— games played at recess — did you carry lunch or lived close enough to go home.

If you can only remember the name and location of the school and a teacher together with the year—

you will be amazed at what you can remember— and what a help with other reports perhaps an entire class or school can be brought together. PLEASE TRY. Some names that should be able to start the ball rolling.

Mr. James D. Lannan, Supt. of Schools, Mr. Charles Moore, Former Supt., Claude E. McLaughlin, Vera Ritchie, Mary Isetta Wallace, John Mc Neel.

Charles H. Sharp, Julia Price (Edray), Mrs. Dempsey Johnson, Former Beulah Palmer, Douthards Creek and Woodrow, her sister, Clara.

Mrs. Oliver Sprouse, Cathleen (May) Vaughan, Raywood, Ada Vaughan, Sidney Goodwyn's family.

Mr. F. M. Sutton, Sue Cromer, Mary Cromer, Enid Harper, All Beverages of Knapps Creek and Huntersville, B. Nelson.

Fleeta Lang, Watoga, any Coyner of Clover Lick, B. S. Lauster, Geraldine Haupt, Cass, Sister of Clari, E.D.H.S. Football Star, any Gibson or Sharp from Slatyfork, Nancy Currence, Alice McClintic Moore, Polly Smith Reynolds.

Members of all the many family reunions held yearly throughout the county. Any item no matter how small. All duplications will be printed side by side to help make a complete description.

When completed these records will be placed in two places in Pocahontas County — the Museum and one in the Library system of the county. However would recommend that they never be removed from their respective buildings but should be read in their home buildings.

Any item would help and all would be handled as you want them to be. There will be a total of four copies and if you cannot type your letters please write plain— any how, send anything you have or can remember. Everything would be appreciated.

Glen L. Vaughan
400 Melvin Ave.
Annapolis, Md. 21401

Me and the School Board

by Annie L. Cromer

I was taught better English than to title an article as this but that is the way it is. This is my opinion and what of the school board can do next.

Sometimes I want to scream and sometimes I want to cry but always I find it hard to control my emotions every time I see or hear the caption used to convince the people to vote for better schools, "Our children deserve better than this." Compare the then and the now.

For foster parents, it is not only a no-no but forbidden to remind children of today, "When I was your age I didn't have ——." However, our ten foster children and two natural sons loved to hear how we walked miles to school often going through woods and fields to avoid the mud in the unpaved roads. I laughed at Hevener Davidson who moved from Back Mountain to Pennsylvania and was thought of, probably, as "Poor Heb" as he had told how he had walked three miles to school when he was small. When he measured the distance with his car it was just one mile.

We carried our lunch in a one-half gallon Karo syrup bucket. We set our lunches on a shelf in the hall of the school house and when we got a chance to take off that tight fitting lid the aroma was great if it did come from a cold, cold buckwheat cake folded over elderberry butter or jelly that had turned perfectly green. If our sister, Ina, packed the lunch almost always we had a piece of apple pie. If the crust had become a little soggy I can taste the goodness yet.

I can never forget my most extravagant teacher, the late Ethel Nottingham. She wore a fur collar and rode a beautiful horse from her home at Nottingham to Hoover School and for her lunch she always had two boiled eggs and never ate but one? How that other one did rattle in her lunch bucket! The only time we had all the eggs we wanted was on Easter Day. We had to save them to trade at the store for coffee, sugar, etc.

These stories sounded to our children like fairy tales. One time Larry said, "Mom, did you ever read out of the Horn Books?" When I asked, "What on earth is a Horn book?" he seemed so surprised as he told me they were in use 300 years ago.

O, I must tell about my first job. How I got it I do not know but I was janitor for the Hoover School. In the spring I was paid twenty-four dollars for the year. When the snow was above my knees and the temperature was near zero, my father, Wm. Greathouse, broke the road and helped me to get the fire going in the big pot-bellied stove.

I was rich. I was independent. I was taught a lesson of appreciation and respect that has given me a life that many wouldn't enjoy should they live to be 200 years old.

Next, this is not a "they say" but an "I know" one that illustrates what can happen when children are told, "You deserve more than you have." To our foster family of seven, six had been with us for eight years, came, "This is not your home. If you don't have everything you want or are not happy, you don't have to stay here. There is a big brick house on a hill where you can go. You should be able to watch television all night if you want. Your allotment must be paid promptly." On and on this went until the children were obsessed with an uncontrollable frustration that brought results that can never be mended.

I can never forget the screaming sobs of one of our foster sons as he was being led away by an officer to a home where he would have more than we had been able to give him. Every time I go out I must look at the place where, a short time after, we had to leave this fine young man of 19 because he never found that place in life where he had been made to think was good enough for him.

Someone labeled me "long-winded". I have that in mind but want to list a few of the areas where I find some children get less than they deserve. Because of reasons beyond their control that are known as "that kind"; are singled out in classrooms by someone needing to know what they had for breakfast and with whom they had to sleep. One foster girl we had was sprayed with a deodorant before riding in a teacher's car. One of the times my temper really flared was when Jeannie and Beulah Rae came home, "You have to take us to the doctor to see if we have lice."

Many children and parents actually go through torment over home work the children must do. I told one substitute teacher, "When my children need a bath or food I don't call the teacher, then, when there is an educational need I don't think the teacher should depend on me." Home work only confuses children. How many I have seen crying, "That is not the way the teacher does." Parents are not qualified to help with the subjects that teachers are trained to do. Parents have their job and teachers are paid to do theirs.

I am not mad at teachers and feel sorry for the Board of Education in knowing how to do what.

May the Good Lord be our Guide.

A Wonderful Day

Now I am not competing with Annie Cromer and couldn't, even if I wanted to. Yesterday, the 13th of October, was a day well spent. We like to talk about wild wonderful West Virginia. If you want to see some of its beauty try driving on the Back Mountain road between Cass and Durbin. I had been over part of it at one time when we went to the Wanless Church for a revival service that was held by Rev. Maharaj and Rev. Coy Mathews.

As I was driving along in our old rusty top station wagon, the tape player on with that old familiar hymn, "Amazing Grace." — Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see. I have always enjoyed the good old-fashioned hymns, which is one way to help restore a church that is dead. Hymn singing and Bible reading — a singing church and a teaching pulpit—what better way to lead unsaved souls to Christ?

Yesterday was also my dad's birthday, Harry M. Taylor. He was called to be with his heavenly Father, November 3, 1965. He was 89 years old. Before he died he sang "Whiter Than Snow." My sister, Mrs. Gray Wilfong, had bathed and shaved him, then he started out singing that old familiar hymn and he sang it all the way through. That was the day before he died. How great it is for one to know, "I'm going home at last."

You know I thought it was a good way to Bethel Church but really it wasn't long enough. To drive along one turn after another, the birds flying everywhere, and the leaves were so beautiful, the colors so amazing, I had a notion just to park and gaze and wonder and think what a "Wonderful Saviour We Have." He does so much for us, do we do all that we can in return for Him?

What a view from Bethel Church; one can stand there and gaze and think how beautiful heaven must be. Anyone who has never driven across Back Mountain, now is the time to do so.

We had a good day at Bethel. The church is so beautiful with its stained glass windows. One can feel at ease and know all is well when you walk in that church. Annie, Thanks to you for being such a swell hostess and parish worker. We need more like you. I enjoyed the singing by Mr. Burner, Mrs. Rittenhouse and Mrs. Rider and all the rest that took part. The topic of the devotion, was "Trees." Scripture was from Genesis and the Gospels by Rev. Trowbridge. "Trees," made me think more of how beautiful and worthwhile my drive was to Bethel Church.

I also enjoyed listening to Mayor Juanita Trickett from the Tyrand Parish at Huttonsville. To hear her talk you would know she loves her Lord. The slides she showed of scenes that the parish covers made me think more of my drive over there.

Any of you United Methodist Women, Presbyterians, Brethrens, or whatever, or who ever, that wishes to come to our meetings, welcome. Everyone is always welcome in God's House.

The next Parish Meeting will be at the United Methodist Church in Dunmore, April 13, 1977.

Mildred McLaughlin

P.C.H.S. Queen and King Homecoming

Tammy Crist was chosen Miss Homecoming Queen at Pocahontas County High School last Friday night.

Tom Valencia was selected as Homecoming King at Friday's PCHS Homecoming.

Girls Basketball

The Girls Varsity Basketball team, in their fourth week, has a record of 4 wins and 3 losses. Their 4th win of the season was played last Thrusday night at PCHS with Union.

The girls played a good defensive and offensive game. The score was PCHS 36, Union 33. Top scorers were Debbie Ralston with 7 and Cathy Coleman with 6. Top rebounder was Lottie Buzzard with 14.

The girls' next game will be October 21 at home with Tygarts Valley at 7:00.

Good luck, girls.

PCHS Football

Pocahontas won an exciting game with Kingwood in the PCHS Homecoming contest.

The Warriors scored early on a pass to Albert Pondexter from Mark Waslo. Ronnie Sharp's kick for the extra point was good.

Kingwood came back to tie the score on an option play by quarterback, Bill Dewitt. The extra point was kicked by Mark Thorn.

Pocahontas scored again in the second quarter on a run by Albert Pondexter. The attempt for the extra point failed.

Thorn then kicked two field goals to tie the score at half 13—13.

Neither team scored in the second half, putting the game into an overtime. In an overtime, each team is given an opportunity to score from the 10 yard line with four plays. PCHS won the toss of the coin and elected to go on defense, forcing Kingwood to go for the field goal. Pocahontas then came back and gave the ball to Albert Pondexter who scored on the second down, making the score 19—16.

The Pocahontas defense did an outstanding job, led by Melvin Ricottilli, who recovered two (2) fumbles in regulation play and sacked the quarterback in the overtime.

MARLINTON JR. HIGH FOOTBALL

The Marlinton Jr. High Copperheads got their fourth win of the season by defeating the Cowen Bulldogs 32-8.

Mike Doss again led the scoring for the Copperheads. He had two touchdowns and two conversions. John Barton also scored for the Copperheads Barton had a touchdown run of 30 yards. He also had a conversion. The final touchdown was scored by Brett Withers, who intercepted a Cowen pass and ran it back 30 yards for a touchdown.

The defense again played an outstanding game. Leading the defense were Lawrence Kiner, Rick McCarty, Donny Rose, John Barton and Bob Shelton.

The Copperheads will be playing Webster Springs this Saturday evening, October 23. Game time is 7:30.

Notes on
Pocahontas County
1914 - 1938

(Written for the Lt. Glen Vaughan Historical Collection)

I was born and brought up on the old family farm near Buckeye— in our faded white cottage under Bridger's Gap. The old house— which we lived in until 1932— had been built by my grandfather, Captain James Monroe McNeill (C.S.A.) just after his return from Yankee prison at Fort Delaware. It was a 6½ room Dutch cottage and had two great stone chimneys at each end. One of these chimneys still had the old fireplace, which was a center in my childhood and where we still sometimes cooked corn pone and boiled beef and "fodder" beans.

My mother and father ("G.D." McNeill), my Granny Fanny (Perkins) Mc Neill, and my older brother and sister, Ward and Elizabeth, composed our family group until 1918 when my brother Jim was born. Also, in my very early childhood, an important member of our household was "Aunt" Malindy Griffin— not a blood relative, but the kindly old woman who had no other home and had come to us to rock the children, tell stories, and sing her "quavery" songs.

We were busy on the farm, and I early learned to ride the horse, to haul hay, plow and hoe corn, feed the animals, hunt the cows, milk, and carry in the wood and water. We churned, too, and made cheese, hominy, soft soap, kraut, apple butter, dried apples and "fodder" beans. In the spring we usually "opened" the sugar camp up the hollow and made sugar tree molasses, sugar cakes, and a sugar Easter eggs. We also picked wild greens, wild fruit, and the various herbs for medicine. And I can remember Granny picking, washing, and carding her wool, spinning it on her "little" wheel and— very occasionally— making candles in the old candle mold. She leached out wood ashes for her soap in the old ash hopper, and we made a "run" of cider every fall, buried our apples and root vegetables in great holes in the back yard or garden, and picked great sacks of walnuts and chestnuts— the chestnuts picked from a great grove of trees, called the "Chestnut Orchard" which stood just across our line fence on the farm of my Uncle Dan'l (Daniel A. McNeill), who ran— with his two sons— the store down in the village, just above the fork where Rush Run goes into Swago Crick.

Our village had four centers— Uncle Dan'l's (Wint's) Store, the two room school house, and our two white churches, called the "Upper Church" and the "Lower".

When I was five, I went to my first school down at Buckeye. My father, "G.D.", was principal, and Miss Annie Cleek was my first teacher. My primer book was about Dot and Don. "Here we are. We are Dot and Don. Here we are." In the second grade, Miss Pearl Carter was my teacher, and I still remember the memorization of the 48 states and of West Virginia's 55 counties: "Barbor, Berkley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, etc." In the third grade, Miss Marjorie Warwick was my teacher. Other Buckeye teachers I remember were Miss Carrie Brown (Morrison), Miss Clara Palmer, and Miss Anne Correll.

When I was in grade 4, my mother and father moved the family to Marlinton for about a year and a half, and I went to school to Miss Mathews and Miss Pennybacker. For me, this move to town was rather difficult, and I was lonely, poor at my studies, and became utterly confused by the mathematical complexities of long division and common fractions.

Our town house, which we rented, was on Upper Camden— the big old house which today stands between the Miss Susie Gay House and Alice Waugh's. I often played

with Alice and with Jean Sharp down on the next block. Other neighbors were the Mays, Wades, McCoys, McFerrins, and Duncans. I sometimes played with Billy Duncan or went down on Lower Camden to play with Libby Williams— a little girl with a blonde Dutch bob and blue eyes and an up-turned nose. Sometimes, too, I visited my little cousin, Helen Overholt, at her house near the old Fairground, and sometimes Aunt Lucy (Overholt) would send us out in the "Common" to bring home her Jersey milkcow. In our barn back of our house, we kept a farm milkcow or two, and there were several other cows who pastured on the town "Common," and — I believe, too, that a few chickens, inhabited the barns of alleys of the town. On a few occasions an ox wagon passed along Upper Camden, and there was the Livery stable and the old "Opera House" — a monumental "drama" in cement.

As I look back at this old town circa 1920, it seems to me to have been a prosperous and self-sufficient village. There were the daily north and south trains, at least one drug store, groceries, hardware, banks, hotel, etc. There were four practicing physicians, three dentists, and numerous lawyers. We had regular ice service, a garbage wagon, and daily milk delivery. On Main Street were the banks, the various stores, and even a milliner, whose job it was to trim the ladies' hats. The Tannery whistle marked the hours, and there were the churches and the two almost new brick schools.

During this era, my father was County Superintendent of Schools, and because one winter I was presumably too ill to attend school, I went with "G.D." in our Model-T Ford on a wide-ranging school visitation— to Durbin, Cass, Hillsboro, Huntersville, Elk, etc. and up the windy hollows to one room school houses on Droop and Beaver Creek. The question of my illness remains a question. Presumably, I was afflicted with St. Vitus Dance, but (in 1976) I am inclined to believe that my illness was the "common fractions syndrome." Anyway, I visited the country schools with G.D. and have always been able to add and subtract! This mathematical block of mine was a great puzzle and pain to "G.D." who— at age seven — had already worked his way through Roy's Third Arithmetic!

To be a child in Marlinton during these years was to be happy and free. We played around the Slough, walked the railroad bridge, played hopscotch, roller skated (I on one of Jean Sharp's skates. . . .), rolled hoops, followed the ice wagon for its delicious "off-fallings", went to Chautauqua, to picnics, and hoped for an ice cream cone from Kee's Drug Store. Or one could attend a Sunday School festival, feast in Aunt Lucy's grape arbor on a fall Saturday, or wait for the utter bliss of circus day. Or if one grew tired of this all-year waiting, one could go up to the Depot and wait for the noon and afternoon trains.

My family's sojourn in town was not successful, and when I was about 10 years old, we returned to the farm and remained there— as my brother Jim still remains. I went to the 6th and 7th grades at Buckeye, where— by now —we had playground swings and our first "hot lunch"—. For this latter innovation, the children brought the meat and vegetables for a mighty soup pot which the teacher boiled all morning on the top of the "Big Room" heating stove.

When I was 12, I entered Edray District High School where "G.D." had just (1923) become principal. Some of the High School teachers, 1923-27, were "Cap" Killingsworth, "Bunyan" Lord, "Miss Fannie" (Overholt), Miss Lazenby, Miss Stancill, Esther Williams Green, Miss Eskridge, Miss Yeager, Miss Richardson, William D. Saunders, Jr., Mr. Travis, and Mr. Clutter— from whom I always managed a marginal D— in math.

In these years, "Bulldog" Kenny was our football star; Mary Warwick Dunlap, most attractive; Ed Rexrode, most popular; and Add McNeill our "Wittiest boy". "Bunny" Hill and Libby Williams were our girls' basketball stars, and I became a questionable and heavy-footed guard on the 1927 team. One of the more shocking "great events" of the 1927 season was that we girls first wore our "new" athletic shorts for basketball! These above-the-knees shorts replaced our black sateen or blue serge bloomers and were — along with the "boyish bob"— the very "latest" thing.

I remember many of the High School "kids" of this era. I remember Curtis Mc Coy and his banjo, and I remember Jesse Wiley, the Hills twins, the May girls— their lovely voices— and Margaret VanReenan, Anna Dennison, Margaret Rose, Bus Edgar, Helen Smith, Marguerite Moore, Louise Smith, Pearl Auldridge, Allie Kelley, Virginia and Gaynelle Moore, Laura Nelson, Virginia Neel, Babe Wilson, Charlie Miles, Fan Hill, Sterle Shrader, etc. etc.

And I remember, forever, "G.D." walking the corridors and telling sea stories in chapel. I remember, too, Mr. Clutter's chapel rendition of Kipling's "Gunga Din"! We had various clubs— French, Glee, Literary, "pep", etc., and at football games would yell, "Boom-a-lacka, Boom-a-lacka, Bow, Wow, Wow! Chicka-lacka, chicka-lacka, Chow! Chow! Chow! Boom-a-lacka, chicka lacka, Who are we? Edray District High School! Can't you see?"

After the spring of 1927, I was in and out of college and taught 5½ terms in the Pocahontas schools. My teaching and trying-to-get-through-college years were.

1928-1938— the decade of the Great Depression.

My first school teaching experience was in the "Brush Country", at Pleasant Hill school. I boarded at Oley Jackson's and at Menafee's or— in good weather —walked from the Fairground road to the school house— quite a trek (3½ miles?) down-hill and up-hollow.

At Pleasant Hill, I had about 25 pupils in all eight grades, and though— as was common in these years —the plan had been for the big boys to "run me out of the school", I had my happiest year— in all my 35 years of school teaching— in the Brush Country School. I knew and visited over-night with the parents, and there were evenings of mountain music and popcorn and chestnuts roasting in the coals. And there were pie suppers, the Christmas pageant, and other community nights at school. In school, I had several families of Wilfong children (first cousins) and the Wheeler children and the Waughs. I remember many of the Wilfong children— Granville's, Earl and Frances; Seebert's Clarence, Harry, and Catherine; Rasa Wilfong's Milburn, Valley, and little Kate; and Asa Wilfong's little Elsie. There were the Menefee children, Starling and Evelyn; Eula, Edith, and Zoe Wheeler; Iris and Edith Dean; Rebecca Jackson; Elzie and Arch Waugh; and Denton Wilfong's Howard and Reed. It has been 46 years since I taught at Pleasant Hill, and Howard Wilfong died long ago in World War II. But I still remember Howard's red hair and freckles, and I remember Elzie Waugh— one of my favorite little boys— and I remember Eula Wheeler's neat arithmetic papers and Rebecca Jackson's little red coat. Outsiders would call the Brush Country school an "Appalachian Backwash", but to me it is, forever, my best school. The people were warm and friendly, the children learned gladly;

"Aunt Ellie would get up before daylight, build the fires, and start breakfast. Then, she would kneel down in the sitting room and say her prayers "out loud"—praying for all her loved ones name by name "God bless Allie, God bless Willie, God bless Little Sterl." Dear "Aunt" Ellie—with her work-gnarled hands and happy laughter and great steaming plates of hot biscuits and fried ham. And as she sang

and I was 19 years old, walking up the "Crick" on a September morning with the "fare-well'summers" all in purple bloom. It was that year— in Jackson's log house along the dirt road— that I began my first book of poetry, Mountain White. Because there was no heat in my bedroom, I wrote the book in bed— with bed-quilts piled over me and a warm coverlid wrapped around my shoulders. I would write late at night by the oil lamp light. It was a good year, and I earned just short of $90.00 a month, paid $15.00 for my room and board, and saved some money for college fees.

My next school was at Slatyfork. Paul Sharp was principal and Goldie Gaye Hannah and Rebecca Slaven the two other teachers in this new, modern, brick "consolidated school". I boarded on Elk— near Mary's Chapel— with "Uncle" Bob and "Aunt" Ellie (Sharp) Gibson— who was truly a "saint on earth."

as she worked, I know there is— for her— that "land that is fairer than day."

Down at the Slatyfork school, our first school buses ran in from Mace and from the top of Elk. That year Willie Gibson would not send his children to school. He was against consolidation and the yellow bus— long before the Supreme Court got the blame.

I remember Willie's and Stella's children— Goldie, Sterl, Louise (who was named for me) Glenna, and all. And down at school were Stanley Glee and Charmalea Gibson, Wilda Smallridge (such nice handwriting), Lawrence and Wanda Lee Smith, Cecil Sage, Ruby Galford, Nancy Coberly, Warwick Gibson, and all the Maces, Hannahs, Van Devenders, Sharps, Varners, etc. And there were the Thomas children— little Harry is, today, a Medical doctor out west, and Willie's children are in Detroit and all over— but come home to the Gibson Reunion every year.

My next 3½ years of teaching were at Buckeye Graded ("the home school") where I taught "The Little Room". Hugh Moore and then Bill Buckley were my principals, and the children included Evelyn Cochran, "Teeny", "Sis", "Buck" and Juanita Howard, Grace, Dot, and Betty Rogers, Doris, Dorothy, and Margaret Miller; "Sis" and Junior Holley; Claude Auldridge; George Duncan; Junior Jackson (expert in Mathematics); Guy Kellison— (excellent student); Fay and Fred Morrison; Eddie Palmer; Dempsey and Walter Mc Neill; Harry and Ernestine Cutlip; Ruth and Florence Auldridge; James and Russell Phillips, and all the rest.

At Buckeye school we had festivals and pie suppers and Christmas trees and cake walks. At noon and recess we played "Prisoner's Base", "Run, Sheep, Run", "Pretty Girl Station", "Go in and out the Window", and stick ball.

The old school house is a ruin now, and the bell has gone from its proud white tower. But for us it still rings out across the village in the sweet September mornings, and all the children come running to line up for flag salute. Then we march in to our seats and stand there to sing "America", "My country 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty . . . ." Then we bow our heads at the last verse and sing it very softly, "Our father's God to thee, Author of liberty, to Thee we sing . . . ."

In Feb. 1938, when I had saved enough money for tuition, I resigned my job and went to Miami University of Ohio to work on my M.A. degree. Since then, I have returned only briefly —to visit, to spend a few weeks at the Miller Place (purchased 1941), or to teach college extension courses up at town. But in a very deep sense, the Pocahontas earth is still under my "bootsoles". It was a good world to grow up in, and I am grateful to have known it and to have drawn from its strength.

Louise McNeill
April 14, 1976
Coventry, Conn. 06238

The following news item was found among my papers on "G.D.". The rest of the item cannot be located at this time.

?GLV 10-26-76.

Since coming back to the farm, Dr. McNeill has devoted some of his time to writing and research. He is a prolific writer and during his career in the legal and teaching professions has produced many articles for teachers' publications, newspapers and magazines. He is also the author of a book entitled, "The Last Forest", and the West Virginia section of the civics book now used in the elementary schools of West Virginia.

There are two outstanding things that have happened to Dr. McNeill for which he is extremely proud, which he says have never been published before.

The first was when he was serving in the navy and was selected from all the personnel in the Brooklyn Navy Yard to give a speech of appreciation and present a loving cup to Helen Gould, daughter of Jay Gould, for the fine home which she presented to the Navy for use as a Y. M. C. A. At that time the building was so pretentious that it had the largest staircase in the world.

The second honor which came to Dr. McNeill was while he was teaching at Davis and Elkins College at the time the Air Force cadets were training there. Dr. McNeill taught geography and tried to help the Air Force profit from what he had learned about people and customs on his trip around the world. One night he was invited to dinner with the boys, thinking it was a faculty and student meeting;

The Last Visit

'Twas a cold and blustery fall day in November 1963 when I made what turned out to be my last visit with "G. D.," on his farm below Buckeye, as on all my trips home these visits were a must.

A gentle "Come in," answered my knock. When entering "G.D." started to stand until I spoke—recognizing my voice with a warm "Come in, have a chair."

Then I realized that he was almost blind. I sat in a rocking chair near him close to the fireplace. Soon the topics of the day were past and we settled down to talk and rock. There were many periods of silence as we reached far back in our minds to recall places both had visited and had memories of.

Now and again the logs in the fireplace would drop a burnt ember sending sparks up the chimney as though to prove something in the room was alive.

Two old sailors—the teacher and his retired grade school student. We spoke of flying fish, porpoise playing tag around the bow at eighteen knots. Storms and calms, Northern Lights, sunsets on the equator, Pizaros glass coffin in Lima, Peru, the Pampas of Argentina, ships stores, tar and caulking hemp, belaying pins and marlin spikes, Jacobs ladder and the crows nest, flag hoists and yardarms—two block then execute.

Some thousands of miles west and we were in the South Pacific working our way north on the Asia coast and experiences on the China station. Crossing equator, King Neptune and Davy Jones Locker—becoming a shellback. More silence and then we moved from coal to oil burning ships, ships with composite hulls, steel covered with wood which was then covered with copper to retard fouling, barnacles and sea moss.

We had gunnery exercises off the west coast of Mexico and visits on the United States west coast. Ships with mangers on berth decks to clean chain as anchor was being weighed.

Out of nowhere "G. D." said, "It's a long way from the Fo'c'sle to midships to an officers stateroom aft, but you made it without college—must have been some hard work and study. Maury's charts and Knight's navigational aids and seamanship. I can recall few students I have known that could equal your record." I stammered my thanks and said work and more work—yes, studies, too.

I put a small log on the fire while we just rocked—going back home soon—tomorrow I answered and the hour is late and I must be going. "Always nice to have you drop in, Vaughan, come back soon." We shook hands, no goodbys or farewells. We had sailed oceans in the space of a handful of minutes. *

As I walked down to the car, little did I know that this would be our last visit. When I heard of his passing I prayed that a gentle breeze would come off the mountains to the west and carry his spirit across the seas to the Highlands.

"G. D." died Sunday, March 22, 1964.

TAPS

Taps: There it sounds with its quivering note,
Like a voice full of tears or a sob in the throat
That saddest and sweetest most beautiful call
How its notes hold the music, in rise and in fall

Whenever I hear it I think of the day
When for me they shall sound it and I far away
And I Pray that they'll say, "He has fought a good fight,"
As the Trumpeter's bugle is saying Good Night

By: Midshipman Wm. N. Porter, Deceased.

—Glenn L. Vaughan
History Collection 1976

* This line should have been,
"We had sailed thousands of miles of the worlds oceans in the space of a handful of minutes." GLV.

"Let us get on with the business of a State Government that serves the people."

Teaching in One Room Schools

The following article is from the Pocahontas Times of August 5, 1898. The author is not given but the article was probably written by Andrew Price.

Teachers and Things

Does a teacher have to confront a condition or a fact, we ask in a dramatic way in the words of a rising young novelist. This reminds us of the way they theorize in the training schools, shaping young persons to teach and filling them chock full of ideas and ideals. The novice who has been taught sees the smooth current of the stream down which he is to travel but not the rocks beneath the surface.

Nearly every one who has risen from among the people to assume prominence as a public man or a public deadbeat has taught. Nearly every child has a desire for teaching bred into him as he sits day after day under the control of his teacher, who is the monarch of all he surveys. A great many teachers get bravely over their desire to teach, but it hangs to some. It seems bred to the bone.

Professor D. L. Barlow, County Superintendent, from whose pen we published a typical article last week, is a good example of one confirmed in the habit of teaching. He lays awake at night planning how he can impart information by making a point plain.

In Pocahontas the school teacher receives an appalling amount of attention, and the people of the neighborhood watch him like hawks. This is very flattering when the teacher succeeds in pleasing those who exercise this surveillance, but as a rule it causes much irritation to the teacher and therefore interferes with his good work. When the country at large have their eyes upon the doings of Congress, and are grumbling and growling about high taxes and lavish appropriations, our average school patron is making the neighborhood too hot to hold the school teacher.

The first school that I taught was in a truly rural district, and I entered on the work with the feeling that I had reached the very acme of my ambition. The longer I taught the more I chafed under the conditions confronting those who indulged in teaching, and I did as the majority do—fled the scene, and let another take my place who goes to his work in a blissful state of ignorance.

Those who have never taught have no idea of the finesse requirements to teach a school.

My first school was what is known as a success. That is, I taught to the last day of the term with an average attendance, but I had trouble. People talked about me. Some said I taught too many hours and others too few. I was too strict and too mild. They complained that I had never whipped anybody and that young ones needed to be whipped with the same regularity that cattle should be salted. I whipped a boy for a petty offense to quiet this rumor, and expected to bushwhacked for weeks. I kept the schoolroom too hot; I kept it too cold. I let the children starve to death for water; I had the children carrying water half the time. One old clod compeller complained that I did not teach from six to six.

These are only a few of the many complaints that rose throughout the neighborhood on account of my mismanagement. I never dared to do or say anything without weighing the con-

sequences and thinking how it would sound. One set would tell me what another set said, and I was overwhelmed and vexed with the cares of state.

One of the worst troubles I got into was caused by the introduction of calisthenics, which are "light gymnastics suitable for and adapted to girls, designed to promote grace and health." The children took to them wonderfully well, and I would have my little gang of twenty or so fling their arms in unison, and it made an agreeable change in school work. But the little scamps soon saw a way to utilize the exercise. When their mother wanted a back-log cut, why the teacher had put him through such violent exercise he was so stiff and sore that he couldn't get his coat off. And the girls were the same way.

Pretty soon there was a corn-shucking, and the brutal treatment by the teacher was discussed in all its phases. I was notified that I would have to stop abusing the children. I did not comply as I had found out the best plan to pursue was not to weaken. One evening a trustee came spying around, and when I put the team through their exercises he had to admit that it was about as heavy work as shaking hands.

After this it gradually dawned on the old folks that the young ones were a-doing of them, and the next plaint was naturally that I did not whip enough. I thought there might be some justice in this myself; and shortly after one of the boys whose arms had suffered most from calisthenics gave me an opening, and nerving myself to the desperate deed, I cut a twig and brushed him. I scared him very much and hurt him very little, and the school was tremendously impressed and the neighborhood pleased, but some complications arose with his immediate connections. The whipping evidently did him good, for he grew up and lately distinguished himself by licking a man fifty pounds heavier than he. We hope this is partly due to his early training.

The greatest forte a schoolteacher can have is to make himself solid with the children. If the school interests them they will come, if it bores them they will not, for the children rule the roost. Therefore the schoolteacher should provide lots of Noah's Arks; Punch and Judy shows; unlimited supply of candy and lickerish; picture books, and other things to make the school attractive and not like home. I offered a dollar on the first day of school for the pupil who attended the most days. The school was nearly out and there were two children, a boy and girl, about eight years old, who had not missed a day. On the last Thursday the little boy was sick, and the little girl looked at him constantly, hoping he would be too sick to come out next day. The next morning found him much worse, but he managed to reach the schoolhouse and everybody gloried in his spunk. He made no attempt to study or recite. We had gathered all the girls' shawls and made him a bed on the bench, and he lay there all day the sickest child I have ever seen. He was game to the last and received the half dollar that was his with the greatest complacence.

We feel that the school teacher is poorly paid in Pocahontas, but it is nevertheless true that we are paying too much school tax. It would be better if there were half the number of schools. —1898

Note:- My Father, Elijah Burrell Vaughan taught school at huntersville from 1896 to the Spring of 1899. GLV.

An Acrostic on Mill Point
Pocahontas County
West Virginia

Mirrored in beauty,
Inviting in charms,
Lies the village of Mill
Point
Linked among farms.

Purling around foothills
On Stamping Creek
flows
Invading the flour mills,
Near where the willow
grows
To turn the old mill wheels.

Pure and limpid flow the
streams
Out of the hills beyond,
Caught in a mesh of day
dreams
and beauty all around.
Heaven's dome is brooding
Over a scene so fair,
Nature's heart is thrilling
touched by the vibrant
air

A sunset hush steals o'er
the land
Soothed by a Father's
tender hand.
Crimson clouds float softly
Over a sky so blue.
Unfolding, Nature's
symphony
Night birds call to you.
Turn from toil to your
homesteads
Yeomen tried and true!
West in the Blue Spring
fens
Exquisite fern leaves
grow
Swaying on graceful stems
Turning to and fro.

Views from Cliffside
Invite arrest, and lure,
Romance and mystery
abide
Goodness and mercy
endure.
Innumerable footpaths
lead,
Near and far they stray,
Into valley and mead
Across the hills and away

The first part of this poem was written before the State Road was built.

POCAHONTAS TIMES
(Page 2)
Published every Thursday except the last week of the year.
Entered at the Post Office at Marlinton, West Virginia 24954, as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGES
In Pocahontas County $4.50 a year. Elsewhere $6.50 a year. In advance.

JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR

THURSDAY, OCT. 28, 1976

Board of Education

The Board of Education met for a regular meeting on October 25.

The Board approved the following special uses of school facilities:

Junior Girl Scout Troop 857 to use a Green Bank classroom one day a week for a first aid course during November and December.

Virginia—West Virginia Crime Clinic to use Marlinton Cafeteria on November 10 for a dinner.

Hillsboro PTA to use Hillsboro Cafeteria and auditorium on November 8 for a dinner and play.

The Board voted to accept the resignation of Marvin Waugh as a custodian at Marlinton Elementary School.

The Board voted to terminate the contract of Johnny Nelson as bus driver.

The Board approved evaluation forms for service and auxiliary personnel and directed these evaluations to be completed a minimum of four times a year (teacher evaluation forms and procedures were approved several years ago).

The Board accepted a bid in the amount of $7200 from Mitchell Chevrolet Company for a new dump truck cab and chassis. One other bid was received for $7700.

The next regular Board meeting will be November 8.